

Chair Doherty and members of the House Education Committee,
Please support HB 2714. This bill says parents should be notified by their school district that they may opt their child out of state assessments and that alternative measures of proficiency may be used.

The Smarter Balance Assessments are new tests which have not been validated as a good measurement of proficiency at grade level or growth from the previous grade. And they certainly have not been proven to measure "college and career readiness."

The tests carry high stakes for students, especially for youngest, for whom the assessment may not be developmentally appropriate. For children on IEPs, this assessment could extremely frustrating and, by all rights, a form of child abuse.

I would amend the bill to add that students also have an unrestricted right to be excused from a statewide assessment once they have begun secondary education.

The Department of Education already has [three categories of essential skill requirements](#) to meet graduation requirements in place, with statewide assessments being one category.

Parents and students should be able to use discretion when deciding how to use high-stakes testing.

Please support this bill.

Kris Alman