



OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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Oregon Business Association

To: Chair Margaret Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee,
From: Joel Fischer, Senior Policy Analyst
Date: February 20, 2015
RE: [HB 2680](#)

Chair Margaret Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee,

The Oregon Business Association supports maintaining an effective assessment system that is aligned with our state's education standards. We also support assessment literacy training to support teachers in developing their skills to meet higher expectations.

Statewide annual assessments are a tool for measuring student achievement, closing achievement gaps and evaluating the states significant investments. We are concerned with recent discussions that downplay the value this once a year assessment adds to our education system.

Summative assessments are formative on a system wide scale. They monitor the progress of our schools and provide a platform from which we can explore ways to strengthen our education delivery system. The fact that summative assessments can be used in a formative way for our education system is evident in HB 2680. Section 1 (2)(a)(B) directs the workgroup to use the assessment to "Analyze student learning gaps; and (C) Identify adjustments in instruction necessary to address student learning gaps."

Using a summative assessment to measure achievement gaps and then use that information to adjust instruction necessary to address student learning gaps is a formative exercise that couldn't be accomplished without a statewide summative assessment.

OBA supports annual summative assessments for all students in grades 3-8 and once in high school.

OBA is neutral on the question of a one year moratorium on using state assessments in school ratings and as a factor in teacher evaluations. We would like to participate in a dialogue with stakeholders if there is an effort to exclude these measures beyond the 2014-2015 school years.

Furthermore, we believe the workgroup created by HB 2680 should take a balanced approach looking at formative assessments as well as summative.

Joel Fischer
Senior Policy Analyst
Oregon Business Association