

Chair Doherty and members of the House Education Committee,
I wholeheartedly support HB 2713. With every intervention comes a cost and a benefit. This is especially true for tests that have high stakes.

Indeed, I suspect that schools with a high percentage of kids who receive federal funding (Title I, IDEA, Title III, etc.) disproportionately divert time and money to tests for these disadvantaged schools. As a result, these kids are at greater risk of not experiencing a well-rounded educational experience that can stretch their curiosity, creativity and intellect.

I would amend this bill to include an amendment which I recommended for HB 2655.

- Local education agencies calculate annual cost to the school district or the public charter school for administering other standardized assessments (such as DIBELS DRA, easyCBM, ACT, Explore, PLAN, IB, CogAT, ITBS); IT personnel, hardware and software; professional training for assessments and other assessment related costs.

This recommendation may be an administrative burden for an LEA. In that regard, the Oregon Department of Education or Secretary of State could perform a pilot audit. This audit could compare:

- large urban (e.g. PPS) and suburban districts (e.g. BSD)
 - o specifically comparing a chronically under-performing school (e.g. Roosevelt) with a high SES school (e.g. Lincoln)
- rural school district

Certainly, the rationale for standardized testing makes sense. The public should know whether their local schools are providing quality education.

But the problem with any standardized tests is they have inherent flaws. Computer-based tests may demand technological skills beyond a child's physical and cognitive capabilities.

The language of test questions may have racial, cultural, geographic, socioeconomic and other biases that can lead to "errors" that don't reflect a child's understanding. For that reason, the growing use of common (i.e. standardized) formative tests that are not home-grown by the LEA (or are even school specific) troubles me.

Please support this bill.

Kris Alman