

**FROM THE DESK OF
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE**
HOUSE DISTRICT 43
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Urging your “Aye” vote on HB 2655

In Oregon and across the country, teachers are spending too much time teaching to the test when they could be giving students more individual attention to help students grow intellectually as well as academically, think critically and solve problems.

Students and parents have experienced confusion and frustration as the latest trend in high-stakes testing has been implemented. They raise a variety of questions about the tests they will take, how their test data will be used, and what rights parents have to opt their children out of assessments.

HB 2655 proposes a better way. HB 2655 is part of a broader parent and educator-led effort to develop a new approach to assessments that will put Oregon education on track to empower parents and students.

SB 2655 will help put the emphasis back on classroom teaching and learning, by creating a Student Assessment Bill of Rights, clarifying and standardizing opt-out rights, and improving protections for student privacy.

Student and parent summative assessment bill of rights

Under HB 2655 each Oregon school must notify parents or guardians of the following information about summative assessments that will be administered to their students:

1. The names and types of statewide summative assessments that will be administered.
2. When statewide summative assessments will be administered.
3. The per-student cost of the assessments.
4. Notice of the right to opt out of these assessments and explanation of the process for opting out.
5. Explanation of who will have access to a student’s assessment data and how the data will be used.

Expanding and clarifying opt-out rights

Under HB 2655, a parent/guardian may excuse any Oregon public school student from any statewide summative assessment for any reason without providing an explanation. Current rules allow students to opt out only for religious reasons or to meet special education needs, standards that are interpreted differently in different places.

Improving student privacy

HB 2655 establishes and strengthens protections for student data privacy. HB 2655 clarifies that a student’s summative assessment and other test scores belong to the student and his or her parent or guardian, and clarifies the rights of parents to limit the use and collection of student data.