

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Education

MEASURE: HB 2655 A
CARRIER: Sen. Roblan

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/19/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 05/05, 05/19

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Gelser, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Nays: 1 - Hass

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs State Board of Education to adopt specified standards related to student education records. Provides that parents and adult students have right to excuse student from statewide standardized summative assessment and that school districts must provide notice of that right to parents at beginning of school year. Mandates school district or public charter school shall provide notice of opt-out option. Mandates supervised study time for excused students. Mandates notice of information about summative assessments, including dates of assessments, class time required for administration of assessments, and information relating to assessment results, be sent to parents and adult students at least 30 days prior to administration of assessments. Details Department of Education process in case of school performance report being negatively impacted by individuals being excused from summative assessments. Sunsets portions of measure relating to reason for excuse after six years. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon as an “opt-out state” where school districts may currently excuse students from state testing to accommodate a student’s disabilities or religious beliefs
- Inconsistent application between districts and schools of what constitutes a disability or religious belief and opt-out processes
- Questionable accuracy of assessments when predicting academic achievement or future potential
- Negative impact of high-stakes standardized tests on student psychological health
- Standardized summative assessments as taking away from already limited instruction time
- Federal requirements, and potential waiver, for standardized testing
- Potential that high opt out percentages may threaten federal funding and distort results

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts and mathematics were adopted by the State Board of Education in October, 2010. They meet the requirement for standards leading to college and career readiness required by Oregon’s No Child Left Behind waiver granted in 2012.

Since 1991, the state has used the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) to determine student progress toward meeting standards. For the 2014-2015 school year, Oregon moved to Smarter Balanced Assessments for English language arts and mathematics. In addition to the Smarter Balanced Assessment, students

have multiple options (work samples, SAT, ACT) to demonstrate mastery of essential skills required to graduate. OAKS will continue to be used to assess science and social science until common standards are developed for those content areas.

House Bill 2655-A establishes the Student Assessment Bill of Rights, a list of rights for students and parents regarding statewide standardized testing. It also expands the existing right students have to opt-out of statewide standardized assessments until July 1, 2021.