

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Thomsen and committee members,

I am submitting testimony regarding errant assessment scores given to my children in their most recent Individual Student Report. I am concerned that the method used against my children in Salem-Keizer will be used against all Oregon students that have been opted-out by Deputy Superintendent Colt Gill for 2019-2020. All Oregon students will have errant assessment scores for at least 2 years. Additionally, all Continuous Improvement plans relying on SBA, EasyCBM and iReady for Student Investment Account outcome measurements are invalid.

I have provided testimony to this committee documenting the poor performance of students attending virtual charter schools. Consistently missing both federal participation and performance levels, these proven failures have now been forced into the homes of aOregon families through Distance Learning for All. Data privacy and surveillance concerns are ignored in an effort to collect more social emotional learning data for non-community members. This is no longer public education, the foundation of United States democracy, but an attempt to control society while liquidating public assets.

Please encourage Deputy Superintendent Gill to act in support of public education and create community-based outcome measurements that reflect reality, instead of enriching the testing lobby at our expense.

I've included my recent testimony to the Oregon State Board of Education. I'm willing to provide my children's ISP upon request.

Thank you for your time.

Ross Swartzendruber

Oregon State Board of Education testimony 05/21/2020

Ross Swartzendruber
Parent, Salem-Keizer School District
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Chair Veliz, Deputy Superintendent Gill and Board Directors,

I would like to thank Deputy Superintendent Gill for the decision to discontinue the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment. Please consider making it permanent. Also, waiving the Smarter Balanced Assessment was a long overdue action and should be made permanent.

As offered in my February testimony, fake scores are in the Salem-Keizer system. I would like to thank Deputy Superintendent Gill for the following explanation:

Errant Assessment Score Report

Mr. Swartzendruber-

Thank you for your testimony yesterday. I wanted to let you know that our assessment team looked into the issue right away. I want to reassure you that ODE does not have any records/scores for your children

for 2018-19, which is how it should be as you opted them out of the assessment that year. We reached out to Salem Keizer School District at the form you shared is one that the district developed. The district agrees that your children did not participate in the assessment. Their system was pulling the student's cut score from the last time that they took the assessment (i.e., before they opted out) and moving that scaled score forward as the score for the current year (while at the same time updating the performance level descriptors and cut score ranges so that they were grade appropriate). This explains the documentation you presented, as well the concerns expressed in your testimony. I believe the district is aware of the situation and is close to having it resolved, but please feel free to reach out to them if you have questions.

Thanks,
Colt

I am concerned that these errant assessment scores will now be generated for all Oregon students for Smarter Balanced Assessments, not just those verified in Salem Keizer Public Schools. As the fake scores are generated by unknown algorithms, at what point does the system need students at all?

Most Continuous Improvement Plans are based on SBA, EZCBM, iReady. Those are now useless for at least two years. In addition to useless benchmarks, the forced alternative of Distance Learning for All gives families the absolute worst performing learning model. And invades our privacy. Please consider terminating all distance learning, blended learning and other wasteful, invasive technologies to Oregon families.

Please consider creating community-based outcome measurements based in reality when convening your upcoming assessment work group.

Thank you.