

SB 433 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits parents to excuse a child from statewide assessments for kindergarten, science, and English language proficiency, in addition to assessments for English and math. Modifies notice and excusal form requirements. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Oregon legislature passed the Student Assessment Bill of Rights that allows a parent to excuse a child from taking annual statewide assessments, as identified by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). The parent is not required to provide a reason for opting out of the test, but must submit the required form. The act also requires school districts to notify parents about statewide assessments and their opt-out rights. Currently, ODE permits parents to opt out of the English and math assessments. In 2017-2018, 2.8 percent of Oregon students opted out of the English assessment and 3.3 percent opted out of the math assessment. To comply with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states must attain at least 95 percent participation on the statewide assessments in English, math and science.

ODE permits parents to excuse a child from the kindergarten, science and English language proficiency assessments on the basis of disability or religion. Senate Bill 433 allows parents to excuse a child from these assessments for any reason. The bill also requires ODE to ensure that forms and notices are accurate, non-partisan, and free of conjecture or speculation and to consult with legislators and stakeholders when revising forms and notices.