

SB 157 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Student Success

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to contract with a nonprofit entity to administer nationally recognized high school assessments for math and English. Requires ODE to conduct a competitive-bidding process prior to entering into a contract. Requires high school assessment to be administered in multiple states and recognized by post-secondary institutions. Establishes that the requirements first apply to the 2020-2021 school year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Opting out of assessments
- Lack of relevance of current high school assessment
- Use of the SAT for high school assessment in other states
- Increased awareness of college options
- Equity issues
- Nationally normed assessments
- Accountability measures
- Testing time
- Federal requirements
- Accommodations
- College entrance exams
- Role of school districts
- College readiness

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2001, Congress enacted the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), which required statewide summative-assessment testing of all students in third through eighth grade. In 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which amended NCLB. ESSA allows states some flexibility concerning assessment practices. Currently, students in Oregon take the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) summative assessments in math and English language arts at the end of each school year from third through eighth grade and once in high school. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT) are examples of nationally recognized academic assessments that are also used for entrance into post-secondary institutions. Senate Bill 157 A requires ODE to contract with a nonprofit entity to administer a nationally recognized assessment to meet Oregon's high school assessment requirement.