

SB 456 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Student Success

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits the State Board of Education, a school district, or a public charter school from requiring passage of an Essential Learning Skills test to earn a diploma. Applies to diplomas awarded before, on, or after the effective date of act. Requires school districts and public charter schools to award diplomas to individuals who did not receive a diploma because of the requirement to pass the Essential Learning Skills test. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) defines essential skills as process skills that cross academic disciplines and are embedded in the content standards. The skills are not content-specific and can be applied in a variety of courses, subjects, and settings. To earn a diploma, students must demonstrate essential skills proficiency in math, reading, and writing. Students may demonstrate proficiency by completing an Oregon statewide assessment, other standardized assessment, two work samples, or a local assessment option. A minimum equivalent score is required to pass the assessments. Senate Bill 456 prohibits using the passage of an Essential Skills Learning test as a diploma requirement.