

To Whom It May Concern;

As a parent of a Jr who attends an amazing high school during this very different and challenging time, I implore you to please consider dropping the testing requirement for a high school diploma. This is only extra stress and does not teach them anything except if they fail that they are "stupid." Oregon is only one of a few states that still require this testing. Please ask yourself what good is it doing? Many of the kids are scared of the test and if they do not pass they may just drop out of school. Some may drop out just at the thought of the test. The teachers spend so much time doing this testing it cuts into learning a lot. I have seen it in person. If you still want to offer to test, why don't you make it the parent/kid's choice? My kid does not want to do it and I frankly do not want her to. She is very bright but her interests are not what the test will be about. She loves to learn about art, creative writing, physics, social justice, oceanography, and astronomy. Those are not likely a big part of the testing. So she is not likely to get a great score, so all that will do is bring her self-esteem down.

The cookie cutter way of education in our country is unfortunate. Not everybody wants to do math or engineering; that is off the subject though. Please consider dropping the testing requirement at least for the next 2 years since distance learning has been such a struggle for many students. It isn't like they won't learn what they need to know their first year in college anyway. College has placement tests so if they are short in a subject they can sure learn about it in college if they want to or need to.