

Submitter: Scott Hays
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education

I testify in support of SB 1583. As a retired middle school teacher of language arts, history and science, I value the importance of assessment. Particularly useful were the assessments -- formative and summative -- that I designed myself or that were provided with the curriculum materials I was given to use in the classroom. Throughout most of my career, we administered a single standardized achievement test over the course of the year. It measured only what it claimed to measure, we understood the test and the reported results, and we could report the meaning of those results quite clearly to parents (and to students, when appropriate). While it remains essential to assess the academic achievement of students in the state of Oregon, I join the growing number of residents who believe the effort to accumulate data has grown excessive. It is time to take a deep breath and ask some hard questions about the effectiveness and appropriateness of multiple tests, administered throughout the year, without any apparent rhyme or reason or any specific applications to the teaching/learning process. This proposed bill, of course, does not do that. But it does provide a time out from the testing mania while providing an opportunity to take a deep dive into the entire testing system and still meet the minimum federal requirements. Please move SB 1583 forward and help pass it in this legislative session. Thank you.