

Submitter: David Crandall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1596

I urge support of this bill in the hope that its passage will encourage more educators to explore how play-based learning that includes specific learning goals enhances the experience of children as well as advancing their academic proficiency. As a retired educationist and non-profit leader, I have seen our public education system be distorted by too many standardized tests that have narrowed the curriculum to those subjects that are easier to measure. It has resulted in a school day that all too often spends so much time on literacy and numeracy that science, the arts, social studies/civics is squeezed out. Yes, learning how to read is essential and third grade reading proficiency is a key indicator of later performance and life success. And, we need accountability. Just doing more of what doesn't work, including local districts spending almost \$50 million annually on standardized tests is just crazy. The dominant approaches in most schools has driven the joy out of learning for too many kids and the accountability regime as enacted has had little success despite decades of attempt and millions of dollars [however inadequate] spent. There is ample research that shows the payoff from instructional practices that are directed toward stated learning goals and involve guided play. Experts exist and successful practices worth emulation exist in a few Oregon schools. A nudge such as that envisioned in SB 1596 would be an important encouragement to all those educator who simply need permission and good professional development to bring joyful learning back into their classrooms. Please pass this bill.