

Dear members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to hold a hearing on SB 351 to conduct an audit of statewide summative assessments (SBAC and OAKS) that considers administrative and instructional impacts as well as financial costs.

The audit done recently by Oregon's Secretary of State was incredibly incomplete and did not take these costs into consideration. Even if the financial costs were zero (which they are not) the cost to instruction should be THE most important factor in determining whether or not these assessments are valuable to student learning.

As a classroom teacher for over 16 years, I can tell you that it is my belief that we have completely turned education on its head to a point where the schools now serve the testing bureaucracy as opposed to assessments serving the educational needs of our students. With ESSA giving states more freedom to determine how they assess students, I believe now is the time for this long needed conversation.

I give these tests under duress because not only do I feel they are ineffective for my students and a time and resource waste, I feel they also HURT my students' education. They are culturally and socio-economically biased.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. An audit would give us the data we need to make better decisions for our students' education and assessments that really DO work and help guide our instruction without negative effects for our students.

Sincerely,  
Cyndi Swaney  
Classroom Teacher  
Salem-Keizer Public Schools

*"You'll see it when you believe it."--Wayne Dyer*