

This letter was submitted to the Oregon Public Education Network by Dr. Diane Ravitch for submission to the Oregon House Education Committee in support of HB 2318.

Members of the Oregon House Education Committee,

I am thrilled to learn that Oregon may pass legislation prohibiting the use of standardized testing for children from pre-K through grade 2. This is psychologically and developmentally sound.

Standardized testing is widely abused and misused. The federal requirement of annual testing in grades 3-8 is wrong. No high-performing nation in the world requires annual testing. Instead, they typically test once in elementary school, once in the middle grades, and once in high school. Our current testing regime steals time from everything that is not tested, including the arts, civics, science, and history. It damages the quality of education for all children. Its only purpose is to rank and rate children, ignoring their other perhaps more important qualities, such as creativity and divergent thinking.

There is no justification to inflict standardized testing on very young children. Let them experience the joy of learning and the thrill of making, doing, exploring, and play.

Diane Ravitch  
President, Network for Public Education (NPE)

Diane Silvers Ravitch is a historian of education, an educational policy analyst, and a research professor at New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. Previously, she was a U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education. She is the author of eleven books on education, including *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education* (2010).