

Testimony for SB 428
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A previous audit of the Statewide Summative Assessment was submitted by Oregon's Secretary of State in 2016 under HB 2713. That audit was incomplete. That audit focused mostly on the assessment itself and the direct costs to the Oregon Department of Education related to the assessment

More information is needed on the true costs of the assessment to schools and districts. This bill would require a more complete audit, specifically of "the fiscal, administrative and educational impacts of the statewide summative assessments on the public schools of this state, including the impacts on **instructional time**, curricula, **educators' exercise of professional judgment**, budgets and **administrative time and focus**."

For me the biggest concern is loss of instructional time. I am a teacher and I see how much time is lost, especially for those students who need it most.

Since I'm a teacher, I am also a fan of assessments. It's how I know what each student needs. I'm always happy to take the time to assess my students' academic progress whenever I'm not certain of what they need. In fact, I can't plan instruction without data from various assessments. An efficient, informative, and specific assessment is never a waste of time. In my experience, our state tests are inefficient and yield vague data that no teacher uses.

I want to repeat that last part in its own paragraph and in bold: **No teacher I know uses state test data to inform instruction**. In fact, no teacher I know allows their own children to take the state tests. We all opt out our own kids. This is because state test scores give about the same data as looking at a student's family's income. I'd rather have my children engaged in a meaningful activity during that time, even if it's just reading a book. I believe a state audit is in order to see if my anecdotal experience is exceptional or closer to the norm in our state.

I recognize that school districts might use state test data at the district level to take stock in a more over-arching way. But I know my district could do this with other standardized test data such as MAP and DIBELS which is already costing a ton. I have asked my deputy superintendent what they can glean from SBA that cannot be found in other test data and she has not responded. So, I remain firm in my view that current state testing practices are a waste of time and resource.

I hope you will pass SB 428 to look in to the true costs of state testing. Thank you.