

2/26/2019

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I fully support SB 428. It is time for Oregon to finally slow down and determine the true cost of standardized summative testing in Oregon.

I like that SB 428 wants to not only look at financial costs, but also at other costs such as lost instructional time, loss of educator professional judgment, investment in curricula that is not for authentic learning and assessments, and the administrative costs of such tests and how it affects the K-12 education experience for all students and staff.

Statewide summative tests do not inform teachers of the progress of their students, take up too much valuable and precious instructional time that we are trying to recoup, creates disengagement in our students, and fails to provide authentic assessments that honor and respect our students and teachers.

A few years ago, I was part of the committee who created the New Path to Assessment which was led by OEA in partnership with ODE, the OEIB (now Chief Education Office), and the Governor to come up with a better and more meaningful assessment system in our state. I was against continuing the use of the SBAC, but was told it was Federal requirement at the time so it stayed in there, but several of us (as well as in much of the community and teacher feedback) questioned the use of it.

Since then, ESSA has moved forward and now states do not have to use the SBAC as they can create their own assessment system to meet ESSA requirements. I encourage the state to pass this bill in order to gain important information and data to make an informed and honest decision about the role and effects the statewide summative tests are taking on our K-12 education system. We talk about disengagement, chronic absenteeism, failing schools etc...but these tests aren't doing anything to help, but instead are part of the problem. The money spent on these assessments would be better spent investing in education the whole child with restoration of lost programs such as PE, music, sports, librarians and library book budgets, after school programs, art, etc...

Respectfully,

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