



March 1, 2019

RE: House Bill 2989

To Representative Alonso León and the House Education Committee,

My name is Jill Rice, and I am the director of west coast government and external relations for Educational Testing Service (ETS). By way of introduction, ETS is the world's largest non-profit educational assessment and research organization. We design, administer, and score more than 50 million tests annually and operate in more than 180 countries. One of ETS's assessments is the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET).

As you know, HB 2989 uses language that speaks specifically to the GED®. While Oregon has adopted only the GED® for high school equivalency tests, there are other such tests in the field. By drafting language that speaks to the assessments more broadly, future amendments to the statute can be avoided should Oregon approve additional high school equivalency tests. This is especially true in light of another bill pending in the House Education Committee, HB 2520 (Doherty) which requires a task force to determine whether Oregon should authorize additional high school equivalency tests. ETS does not have a position on this bill. Rather, ETS is merely suggesting technical amendments that refer to high school equivalency tests and credentials more generally rather than by the brand name of GED®.

ETS's suggested amendments to HB 2989 are as follows:

SECTION 1. ORS 339.450 is amended to read:

339.450. A school, school district or association, whether public or private, may not deny any grade or high school student the right to participate in interscholastic athletics solely on the ground that the student :

(1) ...

(4) Is enrolled in a program provided by a school district or an education service district to earn a ~~General Educational Development (GED)~~ **high school equivalency** certificate.

SECTION 2. ORS 339.460, as amended by section 1, chapter 16, Oregon Laws 2018, is amended to read:

339.460. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "~~GED~~ **Equivalency** student" means a student who is enrolled in a program provided by a school district or an education service district to earn a ~~General Educational Development (GED)~~ **high school equivalency** certificate.

...

(2) A school district may not deny ~~a GED student~~ **an equivalency student**, a homeschooled student, or a student who attends a public charter school that does not provide interscholastic activities, the opportunity to participate in all interscholastic activities available in the school district within the attendance boundaries in which the ~~a GED student~~ **an equivalency student**, homeschooled student or public charter school student resides if the student fulfills the following conditions:

(a)(A) For ~~a GED student~~ **an equivalency student** or a homeschooled student, the student must meet all school district eligibility requirements except:

...

(6)(a) ~~A GED student~~ **An equivalency student**, a homeschooled student or a student who attends a public charter school must fulfill the same responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance, including related class or practice requirements, as other students who participate in the interscholastic activity. The student must also comply with all public school requirements during the time of participation.

...

(7) ~~A GED student~~ **An equivalency student**, a homeschooled student, or a student who attends a public charter school, who participates in interscholastic activities must reside within the attendance boundaries of the school at which the student participates unless the school district has a policy that allows any student attending a school of the school district to participate in interscholastic activities at any school of the school district.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please let me know if I, or ETS, may be of assistance in any way.

Thank you,



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