

SB 456 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/27, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits the State Board of Education, a school district, or a public charter school from requiring passage of an Essential Learning Skills test to earn a diploma. Applies to diplomas awarded before, on, or after the effective date of act. Requires school district and public charter schools to award diplomas to individuals who did not receive a diploma because of the requirement to pass the Essential Learning Skills test. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- GPA as a predictive indicator for college success
- Impact of connecting of standardized assessments to graduation requirements
- Use of exams to demonstrate essential skills
- Test anxiety and stress
- Availability of non-testing options to meet essential skills requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) defines essential skills as process skills that cross academic disciplines and are embedded in the content standards. The skills are not content specific and can be applied in a variety of courses, subjects, and settings. To earn a diploma, students must demonstrate essential skills proficiency in math, reading, and writing. Students may demonstrate proficiency by completing an Oregon statewide assessment, other standardized assessment, two work samples, or a local assessment option. A minimum, equivalent score is required to pass the assessments. Senate Bill 456 prohibits using the passage of an essential skills test as a diploma requirement.