

**SB 456 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Education**

---

**Action Date:** 03/25/19

**Action:** Do pass and requesting referral to Student Success.

**Vote:** 3-1-1-0

**Yeas:** 3 - Gelsner, Hass, Wagner

**Nays:** 1 - Thomsen

**Exc:** 1 - Heard

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst

**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 districts 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 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 Learning test as a diploma requirement.