

## HEAD START of LANE COUNTY

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*"Ensuring that our youngest children have a solid foundation for life."*

Date: April 6, 2021  
From: Annie Soto, Executive Director  
RE: Opposition to SB 596

Head Start of Lane County utilizes Teaching Strategies Gold (TS-Gold), a nationally normed, research based, developmentally appropriate assessment tool to inform the development of the student's Individual Education Plan.

The plan is developed in partnership with the parents/caregiver and is used to ensure that the student receives quality educational experiences in the classroom and in the home environment. Teachers receive ongoing training and support in the use of TS-Gold.

SB 596 would prohibit Oregon Pre-K/Head Start programs across the State from using the assessment. Early childhood educators understand the importance of working with a child at their individual age and stage of development. Quality assessment data is important for appropriate goal setting and understanding the whole child.

The Oregon PK/Head Start program is required to use an approved assessment tool to gather and aggregate data. The data is crucial for continuous improvement, quality assurance, and to make sure all children are reaching their educational goals.