

April 5, 2021

Dear committee members,

I have been a teacher in Oregon my entire teaching career. I worked for Lincoln County School District both in Newport and Waldport on the Oregon Coast. Over the years I had the pleasure and opportunity to work with students across all levels, as I have a K-12 Elementary certificate with a Math Endorsement. So I have taught high school Algebra as well as Kindergarten. My teaching career began in 1989, so I have had the opportunity to witness the increase of mandatory, corporate driven, standardized testing at all levels. The last four years before I retired from full-time work (I'm currently subbing) I had the pleasure of working with primary students at a K-2 school in Newport.

Our greatest responsibility as educators is to instill in our students a love of learning and a positive self-concept so they can maximize their learning, especially at the primary level. When I taught Kindergarten, 1/3 of my class was second-language learners. At that time I felt like I was teaching Kinder-grade because the whole emphasis was on reading and math, bi-weekly STAR testing, leveled reading groups etc. And at that point Kindergarten was only half-day. Fortunately, our district moved to a more play-based curriculum when full-day Kindergarten was initiated. But the standardized testing continues. The saddest moment is when you see a five or six year face show that sense of failure when they are continually reminded that they are not "meeting" the expectations imposed on them by our system.

In my opinion, the mandatory, standardized testing system has no place in primary education. Of course all teachers should be assessing the progress and academic needs of their students, but this should be specifically designed for the current needs of a more localized student population.

SB 596, " Too young to test" accurately addresses this situation, and I strongly support the measure. Please do your best to make it a law in Oregon.

Thank you for your time.

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