

Submitter: Larry Lewin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB4124

Members of the House Education Committee:

As a retired teacher in Eugene, I am writing in support of HB4124 because I cannot keep track of how much testing my grandchildren get in Eugene 4J. When I taught from 1978-2000, I knew what tests were given, why they were given, and what to do with them to help improve my instruction. It was easy back then because the number of tests was small. Today that number has grown exponentially.

A retired teacher friend asked School District 4J for the number of district-mandated standardized tests and was told the district did not know. So he asked teacher friends and compiled a list: 144 tests from K to grade 8. He submitted this figure to the district and was told, Yes, that's right. He as a citizen had to do the work. This is not right. The taxpaying public needs a full accounting of all the tests all the districts administer, what they are used for, and what is done with the data. Then the informed public can debate the merit - or lack thereof - of all these tests.

As a former teacher, I used all kinds of assessments to monitor my students' growth, so I am not opposed to all testing. That would be dumb. I am opposed to excessive testing that robs teachers - and therefore their students - of precious learning time.

Thank you,
Larry Lewin
Eugene