

SB 302 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/14, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Education to conduct an audit of kindergarten assessments and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026.

House vote: Ayes, 16; Nays, 13

Minimal fiscal impact.

No revenue impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Kindergarten assessments
- Needs of children and families

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

From 2013 until the COVID-19 pandemic, Oregon's kindergarten assessment was administered each fall to incoming kindergartners to assess three core areas: early literacy, early mathematics, and interpersonal skills. The assessment was suspended during the pandemic. Since then, the Oregon Department of Education has redesigned the assessment, moving away from an assessment of the child's skills and knowledge and toward a model that is designed to connect educators and families and provide information about families' experiences prior to entering kindergarten. The new assessment uses open-ended questions so families can share their thoughts, as well as questions that allow participants to select from a list of common responses. It was adopted by the State Board of Education in a rule change on February 16, 2023.

For the fall of 2019, the last year for which data is available, average scores for incoming kindergartners were 11 out of 16 in early mathematics numbers and operations, 14.3 out of 26 in upper case letter recognition, 11.6 out of 26 in lower case letter recognition, and 7.7 out of 26 in letter sounds recognition.