

Submitter: Jonathan Light
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB948

Dear Senator Frederick and members of the Senate Education Committee,

As a long-time school board member I would urge you to support SB 948, the “Play-Based Learning” bill. Currently there is little joy in learning for children and yet we continue to myopically focus on a highly structured and regimented approach to teaching and learning that honestly hasn’t worked. Perhaps this is one of the reasons that educational outcomes have been so lackluster and students and families are fleeing the system.

Speaking only as an individual board member, I believe SB 948 could help empower boards to move towards a more balanced approach. Our overemphasis on standardized testing has resulted in little more than a narrowing of the curriculum that almost exclusively centers on reading and math. Meanwhile, other important subjects such as science, art, social studies, health, and more, are ignored. SB 948 would educate boards around the possibility of looking at other, perhaps more effective, approaches.

I particularly appreciate the direction that SB948 gives to school districts, the Oregon Department of Education, and other state educational organizations to include play-based learning in professional development activities. Education has been stuck in a cycle of regurgitating the same-old, same-old approach for decades. Given the results, it is long overdue to look at other possibilities. Thank you for having the courage to consider this legislation.

I respectfully request that you support SB 948.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Light
Springfield School District