

February 22, 2019

Dear Senate Education Committee Members,

I believe it is time for our leaders to regain control of the public school system in Oregon. One way to do this is to act on correcting bad policy such as requiring an additional test score or a work sample to graduate from high school.

Students take the classes necessary to graduate and teachers assign grades for the classes. Why set an additional, arbitrary condition to graduate?

Please consider the following:

1. The cumulative grade point average has been shown to be the strongest indicator for success in school following high school graduation. We already pay teachers to provide the grades used in calculating this average.
2. Asking already hard pressed educators to do a work sample is not acceptable. These people are already overworked, underpaid and busy with providing services that are important.
3. Over 1,200 institutions of higher education no longer require SAT or ACT scores.
4. Some states are being required to go back and award diplomas to students refused this valuable document. Over 40,000 in California alone. How have the lives of these students been affected by this flawed policy?

Please do the right thing and support SB-456. It is the correct and humane thing to do. Thank you.

Regards,

Paul "Pat" Eck, concerned grandparent and retired public school educator