

SB 428 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/27, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Secretary of State to conduct an audit on the use of statewide assessments in Oregon's public schools. Provides that audit must address fiscal, administrative, and education impacts on schools. Directs the Secretary of State to submit an audit report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and to the interim legislative committees on education no later than September 15, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effectiveness of statewide assessments
- Testing company profits
- Equity lens
- Impact of testing on instructional time
- Attention span of young children when taking statewide assessments
- Connection of testing to curriculum
- Lack of timely testing results
- Time spent to train teachers on how to administer tests
- Test anxiety and stress
- Loss of access to library and computer labs
- Formative assessments
- Impact of testing on teacher retention
- Scope of previous audit on statewide assessments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces bill language.

Directs Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to conduct an audit related to the use of statewide assessments in Oregon public schools, as specified. Requires ODE to submit report to submit the audit to the interim education committees of the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to implement a statewide assessment system for all students. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to test students in reading and math annually from grades three through eight and once in high school and in science once in elementary school, middle school, and high school. To meet the state and federal requirements, Oregon students complete the Smarter Balanced assessment in English and math in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 and the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) in science in grades 5, 8, and 11. Additionally, school districts are required to administer a kindergarten readiness assessment, English language proficiency assessment (English learners), Oregon Extended Assessment (students with cognitive disabilities), and the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) (grade 10).

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In 2015, the Oregon legislature passed House Bill 2713 requiring the Secretary of State to conduct an audit of statewide assessments. In September 2016, the Secretary of State issued the audit report, *Oregon Department of Education: Clearer Communication, Consistent Use of Results and an Ongoing Commitment to Improvement Could Help Address Testing Concerns*. Senate Bill 428 requires the Secretary of State to conduct an audit of statewide assessments no later than September 15, 2019.