



# PRESS RELEASE

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## PRESS ADVISORY

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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### **Student Assessment Bill of Rights Passes the Senate**

*Bringing Choice and Information back to Parents*

SALEM – Today, [House Bill 2655](#) passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support. The bill was championed by Representative Lew Frederick (D-Portland), Representative Chris Gorsek (D-Troutdale), and Senator Tim Knopp (R-Bend).

HB 2655 creates a Student Assessment Bill of Rights, clarifying and standardizing the right to be excused from statewide summative assessments and improving protections for student privacy.

Current rules allow students to opt out only for religious reasons or to meet special education needs. These standards are interpreted differently in different places, leading to a patchwork of practices. Under HB 2655, a parent/guardian may excuse any Oregon public school student from any statewide summative assessment for any reason without providing an explanation.

HB 2655 also establishes and strengthens protections for student data privacy. HB 2655 clarifies that a student's summative assessment and other test scores belong to the student and his or her parent or guardian, and clarifies the rights of parents to limit the use and collection of student data.

Under HB 2655, each Oregon school must notify parents or guardians of the following information about summative assessments that will be administered to their students:

- The names and types of statewide summative assessments that will be administered.
- When statewide summative assessments will be administered.
- The per-student cost of the assessments.
- Notice of the right to opt out of these assessments and explanation of the process for opting out.
- Explanation of who will have access to a student's assessment data and how the data will be used.

The “opt-out” provisions of this bill will sunset in six years. While there is not now professional or public consensus regarding the efficacy or appropriateness of these tests, in six years we should be able to decide with more confidence whether this should be a universal mandate, continue as an option, or something else. Federal policy is also under review.

Supporters of this bill began this process from a variety of starting points, but our conclusions are similar: There are too many unanswered questions, too much professional dissent and too much dissent from parents and students who are experiencing this directly, to make it universally mandatory at this time.

HB 2655 will return to the House floor for concurrence on a Senate amendment before heading to the Governor’s desk.

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