

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

1/21/2021

RESOLUTION 2020.3

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to bills regarding Equity in Education Assessment Practices in the 2021 legislative session

WHEREAS, both local and statewide educator associations encourage support for public school assessments based on multiple authentic measures that more accurately reflect the broad range of student learning, and are used to support students and improve schools; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County's party platform in Section VII, part 2 calls for the reduction of standardized testing in schools; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that developmentally appropriate, play-based, culturally sensitive opportunities for young children should be a top priority, and yields huge rewards leading to student success; and

WHEREAS, many studies show that standardized tests and proficiency based tests as graduation requirements do nothing to raise achievement, improve employment prospects or ensure college success; and

WHEREAS, the need for culturally relevant pedagogy, critical race theory, culturally responsive practices in schools has long been recognized by both elected and education leaders; and

WHEREAS, standardized testing has cost Oregon taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and drains critical resources away from instruction and necessary services; and

WHEREAS, the goal of Oregon schools is to provide for the development of critically-thinking, life-long learners who are prepared for the opportunities and challenges of living productively in our democratic society today and into the future; and

WHEREAS, more information is needed on the true costs of standardized assessment in Oregon schools; a complete audit of the fiscal, administrative and educational impacts of statewide summative assessments should include the impacts on instructional time, curricula, budgets and administrative time and focus.

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

SECTION 1: To encourage Lane County legislators to vote in support of -

- a. SB 596: Too Young to Test;
- b. SB 597: Eliminating Oregon's Graduation Barrier;
- c. SB 600: Audit the Use of Statewide Summative Assessments; and
- d. SB 602: Eliminates the Sunset of HB2655 (Oregon's opt out legislation) and modifies process for form sent to parents regarding statewide assessments.

SECTION 2: To communicate our support of these bills to the appropriate committees and to the Members of the Oregon Senate and Oregon House of Representatives.