

Local Association Messaging on Assessments

How We're Talking About Assessments

Statements like these below will inform and inspire. Use them in your conversations and local newsletters.

- Good education inspires students' natural curiosity and supports their desire to learn.
- In Oregon, we don't want to spend millions of dollars on new, unproven standardized tests. We are losing valuable programs that make a difference for kids like art, music, P.E., and career and technical education.
- Teachers are spending too much time prepping students to take standardized tests when they could be giving students more individual attention to help students think critically and solve problems.
- Let teachers teach: Teachers in Oregon report 33% of class time is spent preparing students to take state-mandated tests and 25% of class time is spent preparing students to take district-mandated tests. *[Tip: Talk about your local experience. How much time do teachers at your school spend preparing students to take state and district-mandated tests?]*
- We're putting the emphasis back on classroom learning and student success by passing policies that give us time to build a system of assessment that works for students and communities.
- Students have the right to know the purpose of assessments, and how they are used, how performance is evaluated and when results will be available.
- Parents now have the right to make the decision that is best for their child when it comes to high stakes standardized testing.
- Students will succeed with smaller class sizes and access to art, music, P.E., and library services.
- Good assessments should be used to guide instruction, helping teachers understand where students are excelling and where they need more support.
- Oregon is leading the way in creating a system of assessments that helps guide instruction and improve student learning. Quality assessments, used correctly, are one tool to measure overall performance.
- Some of the most important things we must do to meet student needs and support meaningful learning include:
 - Investing in smaller class sizes.
 - Restoring P.E., art, and music classes.
 - Engaging parents more fully in their child's education.
 - Providing students career and technical education opportunities.
 - Providing every student the tools and opportunity to learn, regardless of where they live.
- Education policy should be guided by those closest to the classroom — teachers, parents, and local school officials.
- If we're serious about every child's future, let's get serious about doing what works. This means providing every school the resources to ensure that students have more one-on-one attention, inviting classrooms, and a well-rounded curriculum.