

# Policy Solutions

## New Policies for Oregon

In 2015, parents and educators spoke up to support the passage of important new policies that help put the emphasis back on classroom learning, and open the door to a better way to conduct assessments in Oregon. Learn more about the new policies below by visiting our website: [www.parentsandteacherstogether.com](http://www.parentsandteacherstogether.com).

### We hit the pause button.

- Data from the 2014-15 assessments will not be used to evaluate schools, teachers, or administrators.

### We're going to find out what works.

- The Oregon Superintendent of Public Instruction has convened a work group to review the current system of assessment and determine a better approach.
- This work group is:
  - Reviewing the results of the assessment administered during the 2014-15 school year and evaluating whether the assessment accurately measures student learning.
  - Analyzing student learning gaps.
  - Identifying adjustments in instruction necessary to address student learning gaps.
  - Issuing findings and making recommendations for legislation in a report submitted to the State Board of Education and to the interim House and Senate education committees.

### We're focusing on students and keeping parents informed.

- The new "Student Assessment Bill of Rights" entitles students and parents to know prior to a statewide "standardized" assessment:
  - The purpose of the assessment and how it will be used.
  - The learning targets that make up the assessment.
  - The performance expectations.
  - When results will be available.

### We're protecting students and their rights.

- New policies improve student privacy, and make privacy policies available to students, parents, and the public.
- Parents and guardians are now allowed to make the decision that is best for their child by having the right to opt their students out of assessments for any reason without providing an explanation.

## Progress on a Better Way

The following recommendations are a selection from the document "A New Path for Oregon," developed by members of Oregon Education Association, Oregon Education Investment Board, Oregon Department of Education, and school district advisors.

- Engage in the Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) work groups and town hall discussions on the future of Oregon education.
- Support the "Student Assessment Bill of Rights."
- Create a task force to audit assessments, including how much classroom time is devoted to them.
- Examine all assessments for cultural, linguistic and developmental appropriateness to accommodate the learning needs of all students.
- Research the possibility of administering fewer assessments while ensuring the availability of accurate, yearly disaggregated data for all student groups.
- Develop, fund and implement differentiated professional development for all educators and assessment users. For more information see the full document in our Resources page at [parentsandteacherstogether.com](http://parentsandteacherstogether.com)