

RESOLUTION No. 6287

Resolution Regarding Continuous Improvement and Measuring Achievement

RECITALS

- A. The Portland Public Schools Board of Education and District Staff Leaders are committed to accountability and the importance of data in the continuous improvement cycle by adopting measurable achievement goals for our students;
- B. In keeping with this commitment, Portland Public Schools provided a mid-year Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment for students in grades 3-8 in this school year. The SAT is also being offered this spring.
- C. These are reliable and valid measures that correlate highly with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) state summative assessment, and their results will be available for the public, parents and guardians.
- D. The COVID-19 global pandemic has diminished the amount of instructional time available for students at all levels of our system;
- E. The Oregon Department of Education questioned the “value and wisdom of administering statewide summative assessments this school year” in its summative testing waiver request submitted to the United States Department of Education;
- F. If the SBAC is administered this Spring, the value of the SBAC data to inform decision making and budget decisions to support students will be diminished because almost a third of PPS students remain in distance learning in addition to other students who opt-out;
- G. If the SBAC is administered this Spring, longitudinal analysis and cross-system comparisons will be precluded by the insufficiency of the data collected;
- H. Because standardized testing this spring would fail to fairly assess student achievement and growth given the Pandemic’s disruption to education, it will exacerbate the loss of instructional time just as students are finally able to return to in-person; and,
- I. The District Staff leadership believes that the MAP results will be a better assessment of how our students are doing and have been shared with parents and families.

RESOLUTION

- 1. The Portland Public Schools Board and District staff leadership believe in the value of data and understand the difficulty in collecting meaningful and usable SBAC data this Spring. Therefore, the Board accepts the recommendation of staff to refrain from participation in the state summative assessment in the spring of 2021 in order to preserve the remaining instructional time for this academic year for the purpose of instruction and social-emotional support for our students.

2. The Board also accepts the District staff recommendation to administer the MAP assessments in the Fall and Winter of the 2021-2022 school year in grades 2-8 in both reading and mathematics to establish baseline data to inform learning recovery for our elementary and middle school students.
3. Finally, the Board also accepts the District staff recommendation the District to resume participation in all parts of the state assessment system, including the SBAC, in full compliance with Division 22 expectations in the 2021-2022 school year.