

**A RESOLUTION OF THE Washington County Democratic Central
Committee
Resolution # 2019-005
Opposing Use Of Standardized Tests As A High School
Graduation Requirement**

A. WHEREAS our nation's future and well-being rely on a high-quality public education system that prepares all students for college, careers, citizenship and lifelong learning, and

B. WHEREAS students earning a high school diploma increases the opportunity for economic and social well-being, and

C. WHEREAS our nation's public-school systems have been spending growing amounts of time, money and energy on high-stakes testing in which student performance on standardized tests is used to make major decisions affecting individual students, and

D. WHEREAS the over-reliance on high-stakes standardized testing in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality and equity in U.S. public schools by hampering educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep subject-matter knowledge that will allow students to thrive in a democracy and an increasingly global society and economy, and

E. WHEREAS it is widely recognized that standardized testing is an inadequate and often unreliable measure of student learning, and

F. WHEREAS it has been documented that comprehensive in-class educational support including providing arts, music, and career and technical education through K-12 is a far more effective means to enhance motivation and learning for all students than "high stakes" testing, and

G. Whereas high stakes standardized testing has negative effects for students from all backgrounds, especially for students from low-income families, English language learners, children of color and those with disabilities, and

H. WHEREAS the culture and structure of the systems in which students learn must change in order to foster engaging school experiences that promote joy in learning, depth of thought and breadth of knowledge:

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WASHINGTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1 . We urge the Oregon Governor, Oregon Legislators and the Oregon Department of Education to recognize the negative impact of high-stakes

graduation requirement testing and oppose efforts to replace comprehensive teacher-based achievement evaluations with these tests.

2. We urge the legislature to pass SB 1572, which recinds this graduation testing requirement, during the 2020 legislative session.

Originator: Carol Greenough, October 20, 2019; modified to reflect resolution passed by DPO Central Committee, November 17, 2019.