

2016 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 10

BEYOND THE SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM (SBAC) TEST

WHEREAS, the Idaho Core Standards (adopted from the Common Core State Standards) are a set of high-quality, rigorous academic standards that will help school districts to achieve the Idaho State Board of Education's goal that 60% of Idaho high school graduates have a college degree or certificate of value by 2020; and

WHEREAS, as our students have increased access to rigorous standards and content, their chances of succeeding after high school improve; and

WHEREAS, by their very nature, the Idaho Core Standards when paired with locally-written curricula prepare Idaho students for the challenges of accelerated coursework, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Dual-Credit courses and college entrance exams such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT); and

WHEREAS, results of the spring 2015 SBAC indicate a high correlation between test scores and poverty; and

WHEREAS, the student data from the SBAC provide little actionable information upon which meaningful improvements to classroom instruction can be based; and

WHEREAS, Idaho State Board of Education rule mandates that members of the high school class of 2018 (current sophomores) and thereafter must pass the SBAC and Science End of Course assessment or satisfy an alternate route in order to graduate from high school; and

WHEREAS, Idaho State Board of Education rule mandates testing of 9th graders in spring, 2016, though the federal NCLB law does not require testing of 9th graders; and

WHEREAS, early SBAC test experience in other states has shown that the increased length of the test, at 8 hours or more, is causing unnecessary stress and anxiety for students, particularly among the youngest and most vulnerable learners; and

WHEREAS, the longer SBAC test has necessarily increased the testing window from 4 weeks to 8 weeks, thereby extending the period of time when classroom instruction is disrupted by unavailable computer labs and incomplete classrooms. Many teachers surveyed are concerned that testing has become a major distraction in their classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the State contract with SBAC exists for two more years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho Legislature, and the Idaho State Department of Education to:

- a) Eliminate the requirement that students pass a high stakes “college readiness” assessment prior to graduating from high school.
- b) Ensure that students are not required to take NCLB assessments outside the grade levels required by the federal government.

c) Prior to the conclusion of the SBAC contract, create criteria for adoption of a test that satisfies federal standards, provides consistent, detailed feedback about academic strengths and weaknesses based on Idaho Core Standards to students, parents, and teachers, and can be administered in a reasonable amount of time.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Idaho State Department of Education officials and SBAC representatives estimate that it takes each student 6 - 8 ½ hours on average to complete the test. Over one million hours of instructional time at grades 3-10 will be lost each year in the State of Idaho just for the SBAC. This is more than twice as much time as was taken for the ISAT. In addition, data received on student performance is too vague and too broad to provide any insight on how instruction may be improved. Further, student passage of the SBAC is a high school graduation requirement beginning with the class of 2018, though no evidence exists that the SBAC predicts success in college. Finally, though the recent PDK/Gallup poll of attitudes about education indicated that 64% of respondents believe that testing is “out of control”, the Idaho State Board of Education will expand required testing to include 9th grade in 2016.

Therefore, we recommend removing student passage of the SBAC as a high school graduation requirement, adhering only to required federal grade-level testing guidelines, and beginning the work now to prioritize the criteria for an assessment that will provide meaningful data to better inform and improve instruction.

Submitted by Boise School District No. 1

PASSED	AYES	3390
	NAYES	350
	TOTAL	3740