

WHY SUPPORT SB 789 (Price)?

Background: Are we adequately preparing our children for the future? There is growing recognition that our state's economy will be driven by ideas and innovation. According to a coalition of researchers, 81% of American corporate leaders say that "creativity is an essential skill for the 21st century work force."¹

Yet schools have narrowed their expectations in recent years, "teaching to the test" because standardized tests are the only public measures of school success. SB 789 (Price) proposes that the Public Schools Accountability Act Advisory Committee create a voluntary "Creative and Innovative Education Index" and make related recommendations to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction on the extent to which this index should be part of the state's accountability system.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What is the Creative and Innovative Education Index?

- It is a public measurement of the number and range of opportunities for K-12 students to engage in creative work.
- The scores of individual schools and districts would be voluntarily published, establishing incentives for schools to promote an overall environment that fosters creativity and innovation through visual and performing arts, science, math, technology, engineering, humanities and other educational opportunities.

Why Do We Need One?

- At present, standardized tests provide one of the only public measures of student achievement.
- Because these tests are attached to high stakes accountability measures, schools "teach to the test" and to ignore the broader picture of what it means to provide a complete education for the whole child.

¹ "Are They Really Ready To Work" a study by the Conference Board, Corporate Voices for Working Families, Partnership for 21st Century Skills and the Society for Human Resource Management

- Narrow test-related expectations fail to encompass the responsibility our public schools have to prepare students to thrive in an economy driven by ideas and innovation.
- Public evidence of a school's active commitment to developing the full potential of its students would benefit schools in building partnerships with both parents and the broader community.

Will the Index replace the standardized tests as a measurement tool?

- No. The Index ranking will provide a way to evaluate creative opportunities, not measured by standardized tests.

What is the role of the Public Schools Accountability Act Advisory Committee?

- This existing Advisory Committee will create the index, based on consultation with individuals who are experts or have experience in innovation in the fields of business, science, technology, mathematics, engineering and arts education.

Are there costs attached to this bill?

- By housing this effort within an existing committee within the Department of Education, the cost of creating the Index will be minimal.