

5 Quick Facts About Oregon's New State Tests

Smarter Balanced tests are better than our previous state tests:

- ✓ Aligned to Oregon's new standards, the Smarter Balanced tests tell us where students are on their **PATH TO COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS**, and are more challenging than our previous, multiple-choice only tests.
- ✓ Initial scores on Smarter Balanced tests may look like students are doing worse than in previous years. In reality, the scores represent an increase in expectations rather than a decrease in students' abilities, as we have set a new baseline for educators, students, and parents reflecting the demands of life after high school.

Smarter Balanced test questions are tested and proven:

- ✓ **OVER 4.5 MILLION STUDENTS** across the country piloted and field tested Smarter Balanced test questions to ensure their accuracy and fairness. In Oregon, 24,000+ students took the Field Test in the spring of 2014. The test designers are using what they learned from the field test to improve the actual test.

Teachers from Oregon were involved in the development of these new tests:

- ✓ More than 3,000 K-12 teachers and higher education faculty from Smarter Balanced member states worked together to develop the tests.
- ✓ More than 500 **TEACHERS IN OREGON** helped develop test questions, create teaching resources, and set achievement levels.

Smarter Balanced tests maximize student learning where it matters most—in the classroom:

- ✓ In the past, students took state tests multiple times each year. Smarter Balanced tests will be given **ONE TIME AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR** to ensure students have had the maximum amount of learning time prior to testing.

Students' personally identifiable information will be protected:

- ✓ Consistent with previous tests, Smarter Balanced will **ADHERE TO ALL FEDERAL AND STATE PRIVACY LAWS** to make sure students' personally identifiable information is not unlawfully stored or shared.
- ✓ Only questions related to academic content and skills will be on the tests. Personal questions about religion and family income are not part of the tests.