

Higher Standards, Better Assessments

Preparing Oregon Students For Life After High School

Oregon is committed to providing a quality K-12 education for all students, regardless of where they live or which school they attend. Over the last 5 years, our public schools have been working hard to implement college and career-ready standards, known as Common Core. These standards are clear expectations for what every student should know and be able to do at each grade level. Now, we are using new tests aligned to our higher standards that will measure the real-world skills our students need to be successful in the 21st Century.

SMARTER BALANCED IS A BETTER TEST

Smarter Balanced Assessments are different from Oregon's previous tests in several ways:

1. **The tests will challenge students** to think critically and apply their knowledge and skills to real-world problems.
2. **The test questions go beyond multiple-choice** and allow students to explain their answers, interact with texts, and build equations.
3. **The test will provide all students, regardless of disability or primary language**, with the supports they need to demonstrate what they know and can do.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Students will take Smarter Balanced English and Math tests **once at the end of the school year** in grades 3-8 and once in high school

Oregon students **will test between March 10th and June 12th 2015**. School districts will receive results between May 15 – July

Portions of the test will be hand scored. Districts will **receive student test scores beginning May 15, 2015**.

WHAT THE RESULTS MEAN

Scores on the test will **provide more honest information** about what our students know and can do – and who needs the most help – so we can raise the bar for all Oregon students.

Test scores will drop this first year because the standards are tougher. **This is a short-term setback. Higher standards will help our students in the long run.**



Visit www.smarterbalanced.org to learn more about the tests

