

# 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 provide 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## SMARTER BALANCED IS A BETTER TEST

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

1. **The tests 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 provides 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 11.

Students who **receive a 3 or 4** on the test (on a 4-point scale) **are considered on track to graduate** high school college- and career-ready.

These tests are one measure of students' academic success and **no student will be held back a grade or kept from graduating** based on the results.

## WHAT THE RESULTS MEAN

Scores **represent a new baseline** and **provide more honest information** about what our students know and can do – and where they need the most help – so we can raise the bar for all Oregon students.

**Patience and persistence will be required** as we transition to higher expectations but early results indicate that Oregon students and teachers are rising to the challenge.



Visit [www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=4302](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=4302) to learn more about the tests

