



### ALL STUDENTS GRADUATE PREPARED

In 2010, Oregon adopted higher K-12 standards in English Language Arts and Math to ensure all students move from grade to grade with the academic knowledge and skills necessary for success beyond high school. Because we raised the bar for what we expect students to know and be able to do, we have also changed the way we measure student progress through our state tests, known as Smarter Balanced.

#### How much time do the tests take?

The tests are not timed, so your child can take as long as he or she needs to fully demonstrate what he or she knows and can do. With our current exams, your child only tests once each year, unlike our previous exams which many students took multiple times. Learn more about the estimated time your child may take to complete the tests on page 35 of Oregon's Test Administration Manual: <http://tinyurl.com/TestAdminManual>.

#### What do the results mean and where do I get my child's results?

Test results identify your child's strengths and areas for improvement in English Language Arts and Math. Each subject will be broken into categories and will show how well your child performed in each area. The tests measure student learning on a continuous scale. The state has set four achievement levels along this scale that generally describe where students are. Your school will share your child's scores with you at the beginning of the next school year to help support your child's success as he or she moves from grade to grade.

#### Why does participation matter?

While no single test can give a complete picture of your child's progress, having your child take the statewide tests provides educators and administrators with information about what educational approaches are working and where additional resources are needed. Your child's participation is important to ensure schools and districts receive the targeted resources they need to help all students succeed.

#### When will my child take the test?

Your child will be tested once after he or she has completed at least two-thirds of the school year. Your child's school will determine the specific dates your child takes the tests within the statewide testing window above.

### OREGON'S STATE TESTS:

- Challenge your child to think critically and apply his or her knowledge to real-world problems
- Go beyond multiple choice and ask your child to explain his or her answers
- Act as a snapshot of your child's progress and may be considered along with other pieces of information to determine your child's academic success
- Help identify schools and districts that need additional supports to ensure more students are meeting higher standards

### STATEWIDE TESTING WINDOWS

Smarter Balanced English Language Arts & Math Tests  
February 7 – June 9, 2017

Oregon Extended Assessments for English Language Arts & Math  
February 16 – April 27, 2017

### STAY INFORMED

Talk to your child's teacher or school principal if you have questions or want to learn more.

#### Resources

To learn more about what your child should know and be able to do in English Language Arts & Math: <http://tinyurl.com/ELARoadmap> & <http://tinyurl.com/MathRoadmap>

To view sample test questions: <http://tinyurl.com/ORPracticeTests>

To read more about your child's test results: <http://tinyurl.com/ORTestResults>

# 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 this year's 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

