

# 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. That's why our public schools are working hard to implement college and career-ready standards, known as Common Core, which are clear expectations for what every child 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.

## Teachers helped develop the test.

Thousands of K-12 teachers from around the country worked together to develop the tests. To date, more than 250 Oregon teachers have been involved in developing the new tests, known as the Smarter Balanced assessments.

**The tests have been tested.** 21 states and over 4.2 million students field tested the new assessments last spring. This practice run helped ensure the accuracy and fairness of Smarter test questions for all students. In Oregon, over 24,000 students participated in the field test.

## 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 results will provide teachers and parents with more accurate and meaningful information** about what students are learning and where they need additional support on their path to college and career readiness.

## QUICK FACTS

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

The tests were designed so that all students, **regardless of disability or primary language**, will have the supports they need to demonstrate what they know and can do.

Administered online, **the tests adjust to each student's ability** by basing the difficulty of future questions on previous answers.

Including Oregon, 20 states and the US Virgin Islands are using Smarter Balanced tests to measure their students' progress toward college and career-readiness.

Visit [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org) to learn more about the tests

