

# 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.