COMMON CORE & SMARTER BALANCED

WHAT ARE THEY, WHY ARE WE USING THEM AND HOW DO THEY AFFECT MY STUDENT?
1901: Oregon adopts its first educational standards.
Early 2000s: Every U.S. state has developed its own academic content standards and assessments
2009: State leaders launch effort to develop consistent standards to prepare students for college and careers
2010: K–12 grade-by-grade college and career readiness standards are completed, reviewed, validated and published
2010: Oregon adopts the Common Core State Standards, replacing its previous standards in math and language arts.
By 2014: 43 states, D.C., 3 territories & Dept. of Defense schools have adopted and are implementing Common Core
The Common Core are **STANDARDS**
- WHAT students need to know and be able to do at each grade level; consistent knowledge and skills
- Set of clear goals and expectations

They are **NOT CURRICULUM**
- HOW to teach is up to our district and schools
- Texts, resources and materials are not dictated

They are **NOT ASSESSMENT**
- The Smarter Balanced Assessment is a way of measuring student progress based on the academic standards
COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: WHAT ARE THEY?

- Voluntary state-led effort for consistent standards, **not** a federal mandate
- Fewer, clearer, higher standards, based on evidence & research
- Aligned with college and work expectations
- Rigorous content and higher-order skills for 21st century success
- Internationally benchmarked: Incorporating standards of excellence found in high-achieving countries

GOAL: All students ready for college and careers
COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

WHY ARE WE USING THEM?
WHY: RAISE THE TARGET
JOBS OF TODAY & TOMORROW REQUIRE MORE LEARNING

WHY: RAISE THE TARGET
WE LIVE IN A CERTIFICATE SOCIETY
WHY: RAISE THE TARGET
ACHIEVE 40-40-20 BY 2025

Oregonians’ education: Goal far beyond current reality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal (2025)</th>
<th>Current (2010)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school</td>
<td>High school only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate's degree or credential</td>
<td>Bachelor's degree or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree or higher</td>
<td>Bachelor's degree or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**WHY: RAISE THE BAR**
**MANY GRADUATES NOT READY FOR COLLEGE**

Of the HS graduates we can track, 73% need remedial courses in community college.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-Year College</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community College in Oregon</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other 2-Year College</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No College</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*First college after 4J high school graduation (class of 2005–2011)*
WHY: RAISE THE BAR
OREGON’S BAR HAS BEEN SET TOO LOW

What it takes to pass Oregon tests is among the lowest in the nation

4th grade math
WHY: RAISE THE BAR
OREGON'S BAR HAS BEEN SET TOO LOW

What it takes to pass Oregon tests
is among the lowest in the nation

4th grade reading
Most Oregon students pass tests based on Oregon’s old standards, but don’t perform as well on nationwide test.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>NAEP</th>
<th>OAKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% Students Passing Test

**WHY: RAISE THE BAR**

**COLLABORATE & COMPARE NATIONALLY**
WHY: FIX THE SYSTEM — COMMON CORE GETS OREGON EDUCATION ON RIGHT TRAJECTORY
COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: WHERE DID THEY COME FROM? WHY ARE WE USING THEM?

3-minute video
Standards for kindergarten through 12th grade in:

- Language arts — reading & writing
- Mathematics
- Literacy standards across all subjects
Changes in **Language Arts:**

- More reading from informational texts
- More complex texts from grade to grade
- More emphasis on using evidence in all subjects
- More focus on reading and writing in all subjects
Changes in **Math**:

- Diving deeper into fewer topics, rather than being “a mile wide and an inch deep”
- Building across grades, so students’ learning about each math concept grows over time
- Teaching the concept, procedure and application with equal importance, so students really understand and can apply their learning
Our district has:

- the **same** responsibility to use Oregon state standards that we’ve had for more than 100 years
- the **same** responsibility to assess students’ learning based on state standards
- the **same** control over curriculum
- the **same** control over instructional practice
In **Language Arts**, you should expect to see:

- Real world examples that make what students are learning more relevant
- Reading materials that are both non-fiction and fiction (increased informational texts)
- Writing assignments that emphasize using evidence from multiple sources
In **Math**, you should expect to see:

- Real-world examples that make what students are learning more relevant
- Increased reading and writing expectations
- Math work that emphasizes process over getting the one “right answer”
- Math work that asks students to use and evaluate different methods to solve the same problem
In Science, Social Studies, and other subjects, you should expect to see written assignments that ask students to:

- Use more than one source of information
- Use evidence to support their statements
- Read and write well
Oregon teachers reported that approximately 80% of their curriculum and pedagogy was aligned to Common Core State Standards.

Eugene 4J teachers have been prioritizing curriculum and aligning strategies in recent years.

Many supports, resources, and interventions are in place and continue to be developed and implemented for all students, and particularly those who struggle.
SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT: NEW OAKS TEST IN MATH & LANGUAGE ARTS

OUR COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY
State tests are nothing new.

- Oregon public schools are required to assess how well students have mastered state standards:
  - Do they know what they need to know, and can they do what they need to do, at their grade level?

- In recent years the assessment has been OAKS, aligned to the old standards.
TESTING: WHY CHANGE THE STATE TEST?

- New standards require new tools to measure student learning, aligned to the new standards
- Many states are working to develop common tests, rather than every state being different
- Oregon is partnering with ~20 other states in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
New Smarter Balanced OAKS tests replace the old OAKS tests for language arts and math.

OAKS test for science has not changed.

Oregon state tests are taken on a computer; this is familiar to Oregon students.
Part of test is computer adaptive: it adjusts difficulty of questions based on student’s responses

Part of test asks students to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world problems

Aligned with standards, problems are more content rich and require students to articulate their thinking
Five swimmers compete in the 50-meter race. The finish time for each swimmer is shown in the video.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Swimmer 1</th>
<th>Swimmer 2</th>
<th>Swimmer 3</th>
<th>Swimmer 4</th>
<th>Swimmer 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23.42</td>
<td>23.18</td>
<td>23.21</td>
<td>23.35</td>
<td>23.24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men's 50 Meter Freestyle

Explain how the results of the race would change if the race used a clock that rounded to the nearest tenth.
What the Smarter Balanced test means for you:

- More valuable information for students, parents and teachers about student’s learning progress
- More accurate reflection of student’s readiness for high school graduation, college and careers
- Some students will spend less time taking state tests
- Graduation requirements have not gotten tougher for current high school students (for graduation, passing score will be equivalent to old OAKS passing score)
Join us for another parent information night in February or March, focused on state tests.

Visit www.smarterbalanced.org
BREAKOUT SESSION

DISCUSS:

What questions do you still have about the Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessment?