**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – TOPIC SUMMARY**

**Topic:** Smarter Balanced Field Test and 2013-14 School Accountability

**Date:** April 10, 2014

**Staff/Office:** Doug Kosty, Derek Brown, Jon Wiens, and Josh Rew, Office of Learning

**Action Requested:  Informational Only  Adoption Later  Adoption  Adoption/Consent Agenda**

**ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:**

* Update on the Smarter Balanced Field Test
* Description of the 2013-14 accountability rules for schools involved in the field test.

**BACKGROUND:**

During the spring of 2014, approximately 230 schools are administering the Smarter Balanced (SB) field test.

* + Field testing started March 25th and continues through June 6.
  + Students will not receive scores from the field test. The purpose of the field test is to assess item quality, to calibrate items, and set the test scale.
  + Smarter Balanced plans on determining preliminary cut scores by September 2014.

Oregon has received a field test flexibility waiver: students who take the Smarter field test are not required to take the OAKS assessment for that subject. The decision to double-test or to not double-test is left to each district. Field test schools that choose to not double-test their students may see an impact in their school accountability rating.

The overall school rating is based on an index that consists of several indicators: achievement, growth, graduation, and assessment participation. The field test may impact the amount of OAKS data available for a school’s achievement and growth ratings. Some field test schools may be missing large amounts of data, and in such cases it may not be possible to produce a reliable school rating in 2013-14. These schools will retain the rating they received in 2012-13.

The following two rules were developed to determine whether a field test school retains its 2012-13 school rating, or whether it receives a new rating in 2013-14. The first rule ensures that we include OAKS double-tests only if they are representative of the students at that grade level:

* 1. The accountability system will include double-test OAKS scores for a specific field test grade and content area within a school only if OAKS participation is ≥ 94.5% of all students in that field test grade and content area.

The second rule determines whether or not field test schools will have a new rating calculated in 2013-14, or whether they will retain their rating from 2012-13.

* 1. A field test school will not receive a new rating if there is a drop of more than 40% in the number of OAKS tests used in the school’s Achievement Rating or the school’s Growth Rating, as compared to the previous year. These schools will retain the previous year’s rating. All other schools will receive a new rating in 2013-14.

There are many potential situations, depending upon how many subjects and grades are involved with the field test. For example:

* + School A choose to double-test all field test students. School A will receive a new rating in 2013-14.
  + School B is a K-5 grade school and only 3rd grade reading was chosen for the field test. This is a school where the field test has a small footprint. It will also receive a new rating in 2013-14.
  + School C is a 6-8 middle school, is participating in the mathematics field test for grades 6, 7 and 8, and chooses not to double-test their students in math. The school will see a 50% drop in the number of OAKS tests in 2013-14 and will retain their previous rating.

ODE will be setting up an process whereby field test schools with unusual circumstances can appeal the application of the two rules above.

The field test is part of the transition to the Smarter Balanced assessment in 2014-15. ODE has met with and will continue to meet with stakeholders and technical experts to discuss and gather feedback concerning the 2014-15 school accountability system and the impact on achievement, growth, and assessment participation. Recommendations for the 2014-15 accountability system are forthcoming.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

* No recommendation for 2014-15 school accountability at this time.