

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – TOPIC SUMMARY

Topic: Smarter Balanced Transitions

Date: October 24, 2014

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Action Requested: Information only Adoption Later Adoption/Consent Agenda

ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD: Updates regarding the 2014-15 transition to the Smarter Balanced assessments in English/language arts and mathematics.

BACKGROUND:

Smarter Balanced Assessment System

In 2010, Oregon adopted the Common Core State Standards in English/language arts and mathematics. In 2011, Oregon became a Governing State in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, a multi-state effort to develop and implement statewide assessments aligned to the new standards. The goals of the assessment system are to (a) accurately describe both student achievement and growth, (b) provide valid, reliable, and fair measures of student progress toward being college- and career-ready, and (c) capitalize on the strengths of computer adaptive testing.

Smarter Balanced assessments include a number of new and innovative item types. In addition to selected response (e.g., multiple-choice) questions, the assessments will include additional item types such as constructed response, technology-enhanced, and performance tasks. Students will be administered the English/language arts and mathematics assessments once per year in grades 3-8, and high school (grade 11). For grades 3-8, testing shall not begin until 66% of the annual instructional days have been delivered. For high school (grade 11), testing shall not begin until 80% of instructional days have been delivered.

In this briefing, ODE staff will provide an update on the Smarter Balanced achievement level setting process. These activities take place in three stages during the month of October, leading to an anticipated consortium level adoption of the preliminary achievement standards on November 6. In addition, ODE staff will provide an overview of school accountability considerations for 2014-15 relative to the transition to Smarter Balanced assessments and new achievement standards.

Recap of Development Timeline

- April 2010** USED announces availability of funds for assessment development.
- October 2010** USED awards grant to Smarter Balanced.
- Fall 2011** Release of test content specifications.
- May 2012** Development begins for items aligned to the common core standards.
- November 2012** Draft achievement level descriptors released.

February 2013	Pilot test of assessment item types and performance tasks.
May 2013	Online Practice tests available.
March 2014	25K Oregon students participate in Smarter Balanced field test.
Summer 2014	Field test scoring, scale development, item calibration.
October 2014	Preliminary Achievement Standard Setting.
November 2014	Anticipated adoption of preliminary achievement standards.
March 2015	Operational testing begins.
Summer 2015	Final achievement standards setting.
Fall 2015	Assessment results reported