

Executive Numbered Memo 008-2015-16 – Participation Determination for Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments

January 21, 2016

TO: All District Superintendents, Principals, and District Test Coordinators

RE: Participation Determination for Smarter Balanced English language arts and Mathematics Assessments

Summary: Revisions made to rules for determining when a student is considered a participant on Smarter Balanced assessments

Background

Federal and State school and district accountability requires ODE to determine which students are “participants” on statewide assessments and which students are considered to be “non-participants.” For the 2014-15 administration of the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments, ODE counted as participants all students who responded to at least five (5) items on the computer adaptive (CAT) portion of the assessment and at least one (1) item on the performance task (PT). Students who did not meet this threshold were considered non-participants.

To reevaluate the efficacy of the rule, ODE committed to an additional review prior to the 2015-16 administration of Smarter Balanced.

Revised Rule

Following a coordinated review by ODE and its external Accountability Reporting Advisory Committee, the participation rule will be revised for the 2015-16 administration of Smarter Balanced. As a result, students will be considered participants if they respond to at least five (5) CAT items or at least one (1) PT item.

Note that this change does not affect the participation rules for the statewide Science assessment or for the statewide Alternate (Extended) Assessments.

ODE is in the process of determining when a partially completed test will receive a score. However, all students that are participants will be assigned a performance level and will be included in calculations of school performance. Students who are participants but did not respond to a sufficient number of items to receive a score will be assigned a performance level of 1.

If you have questions about this change, please contact [Jon Wiens](#) at 503-947-5764.