

## Key Considerations for Opting Out of Smarter Balanced Testing

### Smarter Balanced Tests

- Challenge students to think critically and apply their knowledge and skills to real-world problems
- Test questions go beyond multiple-choice and allow students to explain their answers using short responses
- Tests are aligned to higher standards that will measure what students know and are able to do at each grade level
- Will be given after your child has completed at least two-thirds of the school year

### Testing Time

- The tests are not timed so your child can take as long as he or she needs to fully demonstrate what he or she knows and can do
- Your child will only test once each year, unlike our previous tests which many students took multiple times

### Test Results Offer Feedback

- No single test can give a complete picture of your child's progress
- The results of these tests act as a snapshot of your child's progress and may be used along with other pieces of information to determine his or her strengths and areas for improvement
- No student, parent, or teacher should be discouraged by the scores. The results provide an opportunity to focus on the needs of the student and support teachers and schools in their work
- Students who earn a Level 3 or 4 on the tests and meet senior coursework requirements may also be able to forgo college placement testing and move directly into credit bearing courses in college

### Participation Matters

- Your child's participation is important to ensure schools and districts receive the targeted resources they need to help all students succeed
- **Oregon schools risk losing \$344 million in federal funds if our participation drops too low. In addition to the financial risk, there is also a very real impact on our district improvement efforts**
- Not having information on our students' academic progress limits our ability to accurately identify where students are struggling, where they are excelling, and whether we are fulfilling our goal of narrowing achievement gaps
- High School Students participation is important as a means of meeting the essential skills requirement for graduation

### Parental Rights

- You have the right to opt your child out of state summative tests in English Language Arts and Math
- To opt-out of the tests, you should complete the 2015-16 Opt-Out form and submit it to your child's school
- Any student exempted from a state test will be provided with supervised study time while other students are testing
- **By signing the Opt-Out form, you may lose valuable information about how well your child is progressing in English Language Arts and Math. Opting-out may impact efforts by your school and district to equitably distribute resources and support student learning**