



## Education

Let's make this *Mission Possible*

## Quarterly Newsletter

*Building the bridge between  
business and education.....*

### **What is all the talk you hear from our local students and teachers about “Smarter Balanced” testing.....**

Smarter Balanced is an assessment system aligned to the Common Core State Standards and assesses English and math for grades 3-8 and 11. This test is administered on line and provides an academic checkup for teachers and parents in order to better help their students succeed. Smarter Balanced assessments will be given in Oregon schools starting this school year.

In past you may remember students taking the OAKS assessment tests. Both test are administered on line, however; the Smarter Balanced assessments include several types of questioning strategies:

- *Selected Response (Traditional)*-Students read a question and select a response
- *Selected Response (Non-Traditional)*- Students read a question and select all of correct answers possible.
- *Constructed Response*-Students will read the assessment question, interpret information from the question and answer the problem.
- *Constructed Response (Extended Response)*- Students will read the assessment question, interpret information from the question, complete a multi-step process for solving the problem and provide the answer in the format (written response, graphs/pictures, numerical) that is requested.
- *Technology Enabled*-Questions have videos, animation, sounds and interactive computer tools.
- *Technology Enhanced*-Questions have digital media and students are able to manipulate the animations to answer the question.
- *Performance Tasks*-Questions take multiple days, Part 1 is a teacher lead activity where the student reads, researches sources and responds to questions. Part 2 the student uses that information

### **How will the assessment affect the school district?**

State assessments are used to evaluate schools and report to the public about a district's effectiveness. With the transition from OAKS to Smarter Balanced assessments district expect there will be a drop in scores as students and teachers align their teaching, learning and assessment skills. Please be aware that as scores come out, districts will be evaluating if the shifts in scores, both up and down, are in relationship to the change in the assessment and/or the student body's level of performance/skills. The district will provide additional information to students and families once the assessment results have been provided and evaluated.

### **Summer is coming contact your local high schools and college for student internships. It's a great way to give students on the job experience!**

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