



ALL STUDENTS GRADUATE *PREPARED?*

In 2010, Oregon adopted the Common Core State Standards. It now administers a statewide summative assessment (SBAC or Smarter Balanced) to measure test performance against them for grades 3,4,5,6,7,8 and 11. No longitudinal studies have been conducted to prove the standards and tests assure “college and career readiness.” Initiated by business leaders, many educators see these particular standards and tests as regressively de-emphasizing critical and creative thinking and inhibiting true learning.

How much time and resources do the tests use?

27 million dollars has been spent in Oregon biennially on standardized testing since SBAC adoption. Other costs include: instructional and enrichment time lost to test prep, teaching to the test, computer training to facilitate test taking, the loss of library, computer, and special education facilities, as well as personnel diverted to facilitate testing. Tests are untimed, and kids with greater challenges spend more time testing. On average, testing per student is about 9 hours. SBAC takes twice the time and costs twice as much as the former OAKS testing.

How is the data used and shared?

Scores are not given to teachers to inform their instruction for that year. Data influences teacher pay, tracking of children, and the rating and ranking of schools based on test scores rather than student learning opportunities. Those scores, (along with information on race, economics, report cards, mental health, IEPs, discipline records and personal addresses), are stored in a longitudinal database intended to quantify a child from cradle to grave. HIPPA and FERPA laws do not protect that data and it is unclear who will have access and how it can be used.

Why does opting out/refusing the tests matter?

We starve the system of the data it requires. We tell our government that business leaders should not be in charge of public education. Opting out/refusing is an act of civil disobedience in support of social justice. Some of the most harmed by these “one size fits all” tests are kids in poverty, English language learners, refugees, children experiencing disabilities, and kids of color. Both State and Constitutional law give parents the right to opt out/refuse any educational testing.

What are the alternatives to taking the test?

The state must provide some type of supervised study time as an alternative. The SBAC is not required for graduation. Work samples and the PSAT or ACT can be used per Oregon State law.

OREGON'S STATE TESTS

- Don't allow for demonstration of ability to solve real-world problems
- Are largely multiple choice and essays scored by random temp workers rather than educators
- Place too much emphasis on single scores in narrow areas and ignore many subjects
- Have been systematically used across the country to punish or close “low performing” schools (mainly in areas of high poverty), and to privatize public education

STATEWIDE TESTING WINDOW

February 9th-June 10th, 2016

STAY INFORMED AND CONNECTED

Talk to your child's teacher if you want to know how your child is doing in school. If you encounter challenges exercising your rights, reach out to resource organizations for support.

Web Resources

Optoutoregon.org, oregonsaveourschools.blogspot.com, unitedoptout.com, fairtest.org, parentsacrossamerica.org, ACLU-Nina Bishop (719) 233-1508

Films

Standardized, The Inconvenient Truth of Waiting for Superman, Beyond Measure, Education Inc., Race to Nowhere, Heal Our Schools.



DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

House Bill 2655 (effective 1/1/2016), assures the rights of parents and adult students to opt-out of all of Oregon’s state-wide summative tests. Additionally, both the 14th amendment of the US Constitution, as well as case law, support a parent or adult student’s right to refuse educational testing. Opt-out/refusal rights may be exercised by submitting written notice to the school the student attends at any time up until testing occurs. This form serves as written notice of refusal. Schools must provide any students who are not taking tests with supervised time outside the testing environment to engage in alternative learning activities. Visit this link to learn more about House Bill 2655: <http://tinyurl.com/OR-HB2655>

To opt-out of the state tests this section must be completed by the parent/guardian or adult student:

Student’s Legal Last Name _____

Student’s Legal First Name _____

Student’s ID Number (optional) _____ Enrolled Grade _____

Student’s School _____ Date _____

Please indicate the state test(s) you are opting out of for the 2015-16 school year:

	English Language Arts
	Mathematics
	Other (please specify)

To best support school District planning, you are encouraged to submit your written notice of refusal/opt-out to your child’s school by February 1st, 2016. However, you can opt-out anytime. The state testing window begins on February 9th. Parents and adult students should submit written notice annually for any testing they choose to refuse/opt-out of.

I understand that by signing this form, I am refusing/opting-out of testing. I believe the following to be true- Neither I, nor my child’s teacher are losing information of VALUE about how my child is progressing. I also understand that while DOE and ODE have threatened to restrict funding to schools, districts, and states that fall below the 95% participation guideline...it has never happened in Oregon or in the U.S. However, many schools have been closed and penalized due to low test scores on tests without clear validity. Equitable distribution of resources that support student learning is the responsibility of school districts, ODE and DOE regardless of testing participation.

Parent/Guardian* (signature) _____

*Adult students (age 18 and older) may sign on their own behalf and do not require a signature by a parent or guardian.

Parent/Guardian or Adult Student (printed name) _____