

## **OVERVIEW OF THE 2014–15 SMARTER BALANCED MATH & ELA STATE TEST RESULTS**

### **ABOUT THE TESTS:**

#### **The new standards and assessments raise the bar.**

- Higher expectations, better aligned to college and career readiness and employer needs
- More sophisticated tests to better assess students' thinking,
- Goes beyond rote memorization and multiple-choice "bubble" tests; students are asked to write, reason, think critically, and solve multi-step problems that better reflect classroom learning and the real world

#### **These tests are low-stakes or no-stakes for students, but they provide useful information.**

- Useful "temperature check," just one of many ways that student learning is assessed
- No student's grades or grade advancement will be affected by test results
- High school students can meet graduation requirements through this test or alternate means
- Parents will get individual student reports in the mail to provide information about results

#### **This is a transition year / baseline-setting year, with new assessments of new standards.**

- Results are not comparable to previous years' results
- This first year represented a "test of the test"

#### **Participation in 4J was lower than usual.**

- 4J had large number of testing opt-outs and refusal, particularly in certain schools (SEHS and others)
- Most 4J students (grades 3–8 & 11) completed state tests, but fewer than usual
- Eugene, Portland and 19 small or midsize districts did not meet participation targets of 94.5%+
- In 4J, 90% participated in language arts testing, 88% participated in math testing
- Participation varied from 100% at some schools and grades to 57% ELA / 42% Math at SEHS
- 4J students who opted out were more likely to be in non-achievement-gap groups

### **ABOUT THE RESULTS:**

#### **Oregon students and teachers are rising to the challenge.**

- Of Oregon students, about 54% met proficiency level 3 or 4 in English language arts, and about 41% in math
- Oregon students performed better than predicted based on field tests
- ODE had predicted that about 30–40% of students would meet new, higher expectations
- Oregon students exceeded initial projections by an average of 10 percentage points

#### **Eugene 4J students and teachers did even better.**

- Of 4J students, about 63% met proficiency level 3 or 4 in English language arts, and about 49% in math
- 4J students outperformed the Oregon average in every grade, subject and student subgroup
- 4J students' proficiency rate was more than 8 percentage points higher than in Oregon
- 4J results exceed Oregon average by a higher margin than previous years
- 4J students outperformed most districts in Oregon; only 15 districts (most very small) had higher proficiency rates in both math and language arts
- Our students are demonstrating the deeper thinking and ability to communicate it they have already been learning in the classroom

#### **4J results are a good starting point—we have room and plans to grow.**

- We're pleased with 4J's overall student effort and performance in this implementation year
- Opportunity and achievement gaps continue, although every group of 4J students outperformed Oregon average
- Our goal is to improve student achievement over time, to help all of our students succeed