

MYTHS VS FACTS



Correcting the Top 10 Myths surrounding
Common Core and Smarter Balanced
assessments

The following section includes slides that correct some of the top forms of misinformation surrounding Common Core and associated assessments like Smarter Balanced.

More information is available at:

- www.smarterbalanced.org
- www.corestandards.org
- www.education-first.com
- www.dataqualitycampaign.org

**I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT THESE
NEW TESTS AND THE
STANDARDS THEY'RE
ASSOCIATED WITH...**

**HOW CAN I SEPARATE FACT
FROM FICTION?**



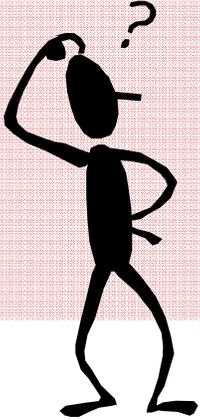
COMMON CORE **MYTH** VS. **FACT**

MYTH

× Common Core is a national curriculum for our schools that tells teachers what to teach.

FACTS

- ✓ Common Core, like all standards, is **NOT** a curriculum. Standards are learning goals for students, or expectations for what students should know and be able to do at a given grade level.
- ✓ Local teachers, principals, and districts decide how standards are taught in their classrooms.





Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills
English Language Arts, English Language Proficiency, Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences

The state of Oregon mandates that Common Core Standards are taught.

COMMON CORE **MYTH** VS. **FACT**

MYTH	FACTS
<p>× Common Core Standards are not research-based.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The standards are based on the integration of research and practice over the course of many years.✓ The English standards are based on the same building blocks used for our national assessment, which produces the Nation's Report Card.✓ The math standards are based on studies of high-performing countries.



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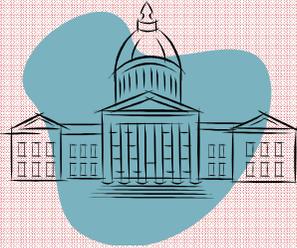
Encourage parents to learn more about how the standards were created at www.corestandards.org.

***The English standards are based on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) frameworks.

COMMON CORE **MYTH** VS. **FACT**

MYTH

- × **The federal government is forcing the Common Core on states as part of their initiative to takeover education nationwide.**



FACTS

- ✓ **The federal government never specified which standards the states had to adopt or develop, just that they needed college and career-ready standards.**
- ✓ **The Common Core was, is, and will remain a state-led effort.**
- ✓ **Participating states voluntarily adopted the Common Core based on the merits of the standards.**



COMMON CORE **MYTH** VS. **FACT**

MYTH

- × The Common Core English standards cut out fiction and literature.



FACTS

- ✓ Common Core requires that a portion of reading is informational so students can become more familiar with complex texts, academic vocabulary, and real world information.
- ✓ Stories, drama, poetry, and other literature still account for the majority of reading that students do in English classes.



Notes:

- Most informational texts will be read in non-English disciplines.
- Schools and districts make local decisions regarding reading lists.

COMMON CORE **MYTH** VS. **FACT**

MYTH

- × The Common Core Math standards require students to do funky things to solve problems.



FACTS

- ✓ Previously students were taught to memorize math procedures. The Common Core goes beyond rote memorization to include learning math procedures and connecting across concepts.
- ✓ Students now learn how *and* why they get to a certain answer. This may look different than what we are used to, but it will better prepare them for applying math to real-world situations.



SMARTER BALANCED MYTH VS. FACT

MYTH

- × Smarter Balanced tests do not benefit students.



FACT

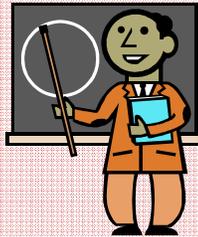
- ✓ Smarter tests measure how well students are learning important skills for life after high school, including critical thinking and real-world problem-solving.



SMARTER BALANCED MYTH VS. FACT

MYTH

- × Smarter Balanced tests do not benefit teachers, and limit their approach to teaching.



FACT

- ✓ Smarter tests and resources are designed to help teachers and parents know whether students are on track to be college- and career-ready by graduation.
- ✓ The tests provide teachers with academic check-ups that allow them to better identify areas for improving student learning.



SMARTER BALANCED MYTH VS. FACT

MYTH

- × Smarter Balanced test questions are untested and unproven.



FACT

- ✓ Millions of students across the country have piloted and field tested Smarter questions.
- ✓ 24,000+ Oregon students took the Field Test last spring.
- ✓ Smarter Balanced leaders and member states are using what they learned from the field test to improve the final test.



SMARTER BALANCED **MYTH** VS. **FACT**

MYTH

- × Teachers from my state were not involved in the development of these new tests.



FACT

- ✓ Thousands of K-12 educators and higher education faculty from Smarter Balanced member states worked together to develop the tests.
- ✓ Hundreds of educators in Oregon helped develop test questions, create teaching resources, and are currently helping set achievement levels.



SMARTER BALANCED MYTH VS. FACT

MYTH

- × The federal government plans to use Smarter Balanced to collect and analyze personal information on my child.



FACT

- ✓ States—not private testing companies or the federal government—control all of their student data.
- ✓ As with past tests, Smarter Balanced will adhere to all federal and state privacy laws to make sure students' personally identifiable information is not unlawfully stored or shared.



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Notes: *Encourage parents to read up on laws specific to this issue:*

- By law, specifically the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), states collect and report student test scores/performance (in aggregate form, not at the student-level) to the public and federal government for school accountability purposes.
- The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prevents states from unlawfully disclosing personally identifiable information or otherwise violating student privacy.