

# Oregon Department of Education

## Responses to Legislative Information Requests

### 3-14-13

From the March 13, 2013 meeting of the Education Subcommittee:

1. How many students are impacted by the Chalkboard CLASS Project? (Representative Komp)

RESPONSE: On its web site, Chalkboard reports there are currently nearly 159,000 students and 7,700 Oregon teachers in the 23 school districts that have participated in the CLASS Project.  
<http://chalkboardproject.org/what-we-do/class-project/>

2. Regarding SMARTER Balanced, when is the Request for Proposal (RFP) going out? What are the legal requirements for assessment? (Representative Komp)

RESPONSE: Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 329.485 direct the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to implement and develop a statewide valid and reliable assessment system for all students that meets technical adequacy standards. The ORS further states school districts and public charter schools shall implement the statewide assessment system in mathematics, science and English. The federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires states to implement high quality assessments measuring student academic achievement for school accountability purposes. Under federal requirements, schools must test at least 95% of their student population. If they do not, their school rating drops one level. At the state level, there are a number of policies that describe how Oregon will meet the ESEA requirements.

The State Board of Education by rule has adopted the OAKS assessment as the statewide assessment system. A change to SMARTER Balanced or any other assessment will require the board to amend its rules through a public process that is compliant with Oregon's Administrative Procedures Act. This includes notice to legislators of the proposed change.

Additionally, a change to SMARTER Balanced or any other assessment will require ODE to enter into one or more public contracts. As a state agency, ODE must follow state procurement statutes (ORS 279, 279.A, and 279.B) and related Oregon administrative rules when issuing contracts. Because of the estimated amount of a contract for the new assessment system, ODE must follow ORS 279B.060, which lays out a very prescriptive process for competitive sealed proposals.

In November 2012, ODE released an RFP - in accordance with state procurement laws- for a Web-Based Computer-Adaptive System that will replace our existing contract and be implemented in 2014-15. Prior to issuing the RFP, ODE worked collaboratively with the Oregon Department of Justice and representatives from school districts and education service districts in drafting the RFP. The resulting contract will provide support for Oregon's Science, Social Science and English Language Proficiency Assessment. It will also give Oregon the option to administer math and English language arts assessments aligned to the new Common Core State Standards. This contract does not require ODE to adopt the SMARTER Balanced Assessment.