

PARENTS & TEACHERS TOGETHER



Let's Put Learning First

“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.”

MARGARET MEAD

OUR GOAL

Oregon educators are leading the way to put the focus back on teaching and learning. We believe this starts with parents and teachers working together. Join us as we move forward in the development and implementation of assessments that guide instruction and help us understand where a student is excelling and where they need more support. Join us as we advocate for the resources and funding necessary to ensure a high-quality learning environment for every child in Oregon.

Oregon is a great place to live. Let's make it a great place to learn.

Oregon students deserve a system of assessment that improves learning, instead of one that forces teachers to “teach to the test.”

THE PROBLEM

The new, unproven standardized test — the Smarter Balanced assessment — has cost taxpayers millions with no evidence that it is an effective tool for student learning. Our precious education dollars should be spent wisely on the things we know to support quality education. That means smaller class sizes and access to art, music, P.E., and other valuable programs, such as career and technical education and library services.

While Oregon struggles to reach the national average for instructional time, local teachers report that up to 30% of classroom time is spent on test prep. All assessments need to contribute to student learning and provide reliable, meaningful data to be a worthy of the investment of time and taxpayer dollars.

THE SOLUTION

Oregon is making progress toward a system of assessment that improves student learning. In the 2015 legislative session, parents and teachers advocated for – and won – some key legislation that empowers students and parents and paves the path for a better way of doing assessments in our state.

The Oregon Education Association, working closely with the Governor’s office, our Chief Education Officer, and the Oregon Department of Education, developed a suite of recommendations to design a new system of assessment — a better way to measure and support student learning. In addition, Congress passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The ESSA provides greater flexibility around assessment and will help achieve our goals.

In a nutshell, we’ve hit the pause button on what doesn’t work, and we’ve won the right to create a system that will work. To make that happen, teachers, students, and parents need to be involved.

Raise your voice!

We have heard concerns about the Smarter Balanced assessment from every corner of the state – from parents, teachers, students, and the community. **It’s your leadership and involvement that has us on the path to a better way, and will keep us on that path.** We believe education policy should be guided by those closest to the classroom — professional educators, parents, and local school officials — not one driven by corporate interests.

We invite you to learn more about the specifics and how you can get involved by visiting our website (www.parentsandteacherstogether.com) or joining us on Facebook.

**The information in this tool kit will help you engage parents and teachers in your community.
Together we will create the schools our students deserve.**