

# MYTHS VS FACTS



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

**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.



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

## **MYTH**

- × Common Core Standards are not research-based.



## **FACTS**

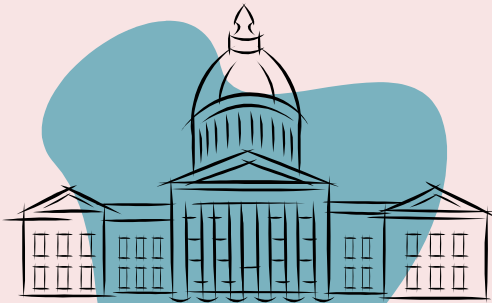
- ✓ The standards are based on the integration of research and practice over the course of many years.
- ✓ The English standards are based on the same building blocks used for our national assessment, which produces the Nation's Report Card.
- ✓ The math standards are based on studies of high-performing countries.



# 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.



# COMMON CORE MYTH VS. FACT

## MYTH

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



## FACTS

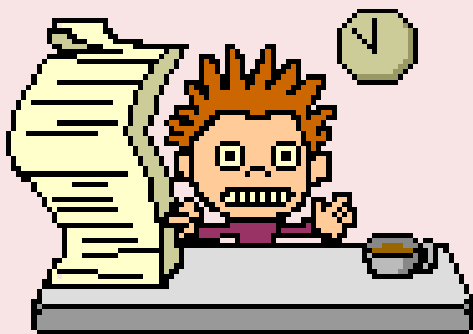
- ✓ Previously students were taught to memorize math procedures. The Common Core goes beyond rote memorization to include learning math procedures and connecting across concepts.
- ✓ Students now learn how *and* why they get to a certain answer. This may look different than what we are used to, but it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

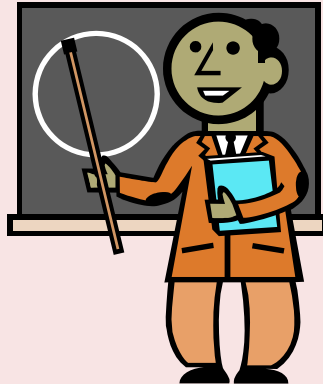




# SMARTER BALANCED **MYTH** VS. **FACT**

## 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.

