

# Parents'

## *Tips for Testing*

Students will take a new state test this spring called the Smarter Balanced test.

It's not the same kind of test students are used to taking, so it will be an adjustment for them.

Our school will be sending out six "Parents' Tips for Testing" to help you help your student prepare for test time.

If you have questions about tests, please contact our school office. Thank you!



## Tip #1: Keep it positive

Students are naturally anxious about taking tests. Change of any kind can create worry, and just the thought of a new test can cause stress. When thinking about tests, it's important to remember that state tests are important, but they aren't the only way schools gauge student learning.

Some students from Salem-Keizer and other districts in Oregon participated in a field test of the Smarter Balanced test. They commented that the test was more challenging than OAKS, but also said it was more interesting because it made them think and was interactive. Some even said they enjoyed the experience!

When talking with your students about state tests, **please encourage them to relax and give it their best effort.**

Approaching the test with a minimum of anxiety, a positive attitude, and openness to the new experience will make a difference.

There's more information about preparing for the Smarter Balanced test on the Parents' Guide to Graduation website, like practice test links and more:

[www.skgradguide.com/doing/state-tests](http://www.skgradguide.com/doing/state-tests)

