



**Contact:** Beth Graser, Communications Director  
503-844-1772, [graserbe@hsd.k12.or.us](mailto:graserbe@hsd.k12.or.us)

### Media Release

## **Hillsboro School District to Host Smarter Balanced Assessments Informational Forum**

*Washington County schools will join Oregon's Deputy Superintendent, Rob Saxton, to learn more about the new state tests*

**February 20, 2015, Hillsboro, OR** – Hillsboro School District is pleased to host the Washington County Smarter Balanced Assessments Informational Forum on Monday, March 9, from 6:30-8:30pm at Hillsboro High School (3285 SE Rood Bridge Rd., Hillsboro 97123).

Oregon's Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Rob Saxton, and Oregon Department of Education Director of Assessment Derek Brown, are currently visiting communities around the state to provide additional information to families about what to expect from the new state assessment system: Smarter Balanced.

Smarter Balanced Assessments were designed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) to more accurately measure the real-world skills students need to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. They are aligned to the higher standards outlined in Common Core for English language arts and mathematics, and are more challenging than our previous multiple-choice only tests (Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, or OAKS). They will be taken by students in grades 3-8 and 11 this spring.

Representatives and families from the Beaverton, Sherwood, and Forest Grove School Districts will also be participating in this important forum. Following an opening presentation and question-and-answer period with Mr. Saxton and Mr. Brown, families will split off into breakout rooms where they will hear information specific to their district and will have a chance to ask additional questions.

The forum is free and features translation and childcare services.

Click [here](#) to see a flyer about the event. If you have additional questions, please contact Travis Reiman, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning for the Hillsboro School District ([reimant@hsd.k12.or.us](mailto:reimant@hsd.k12.or.us); 503-844-1451).

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***Engage and challenge all learners to ensure academic excellence***

3083 NE 49th Place, AC 201, Hillsboro, OR 97124-6008  
TEL: 503-844-1500 ■ FAX: 503-844-1557 ■ WEB: [www.hsd.k12.or.us](http://www.hsd.k12.or.us)