

Parents'

Tips for Testing

Every year, Oregon students in grades three through eight and in grade eleven take state tests in reading, writing and math. Students in grades five, eight and eleven also take a science test. Tests are given in the spring.

Reading, writing and math are tested by the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC test). Science is tested by the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS). The tests provide the state with information about how schools are doing in preparing students for college and career.

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



Tip #5: Think analytically

The Smarter Balanced test will challenge students to think critically about their answers and write an explanation.

For example, the reading test may ask students to answer questions like these about a text/topic:

- What is the theme of the passage?
- What conclusion does the passage draw? Show there is evidence in the text that supports your answer.
- Define specific words found in the passage.
- Are the author's arguments effective?

The math test will challenge students to apply their knowledge and skills to respond to complex real-world problems. Students may be asked to justify their thinking or provide the reasoning behind their answer.

You can help your student by talking with them about something they have read or about a math problem and asking "why" questions. Here are some questions you can ask to help them think analytically:

- What is special about _____'s (a character's) accomplishment? Why do you think so?
- How does the character change during the story?
 - What is the overall tone of the book? What makes you think so?
- Why do you think your answer to the math problem is correct? How are the other multiple choice answers wrong?

Visit the Parents' Guide website for more information about helping your student succeed in school:

www.skgradguide.com

