



District Administration Office

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Brookings-Harbor Voices PSA – Testing Opt-Out

Hi, this is Sean Gallagher – Brookings Harbor School District 17C Superintendent here to talk to you about a mandatory letter that the district recently sent to all parents regarding state testing. This letter with accompanying forms were official notifications required by Oregon House Bill 2655 informing parents of their rights to opt their child out of annual state testing otherwise known as Smarter Balanced tests. Personally, as a dedicated Superintendent and educator, I have a great deal of concern regarding the notion of opting a student out of state testing. The advantages of a student participating in state testing in grades 3 through 8 and at grade 11 is numerous where the only disadvantage is the time required to take the exam. The exams do not have any bearing upon student's academic grades, but are the most accurate tool the State of Oregon has to determine a student's progress towards meeting the increased graduation and college entrance requirements. These exams have also been aligned to preparing students to be both college and career ready. Academic and skill readiness for both the collegiate realm as well as the workplace are currently closely aligned requiring students to be good problem solvers, communicators, and thinkers. The Smarter Balanced assessments are a very important tool used by educators, parents, and students to determine a student's progress towards being ready to transition to a very competitive academic and economic world.

If parents are considering opting their child out of Smarter Balanced tests, please consider having a conversation first with your student's counselor, administrator, or simply contact the district office at 541-469-7443.

Remember that only together we can ensure that Every Student Can Succeed here at Brookings-Harbor School District