

concerns regarding the reliability and validity of the test.

- F. In order to support the implementation of the SBA for spring of 2015, Portland Public Schools has:

Added 64 mobile computer labs to 60 schools to ensure each school has the equipment needed for the assessment
Provided professional development including assessment training for principals, test coordinators, and teachers
Provided scheduling and technical support for building administrators
Conducted multiple presentations to PTAs/site councils across the district.

- G. The Portland Public Schools Board supports high standards for all students in order to compete in a global economy. The Common Core State Standards were developed in order to encourage our students to develop critical thinking skills, to be prepared for college and career and to be effective in the 21st century. Portland Public Schools has been teaching to the Common Core State Standards for a number of years now.

- H. The Smarter Balanced Assessment was developed to be aligned to the standards and to demonstrate our progress in helping students meet those higher standards. If valid, the SBA results will show us where we need to accelerate the opportunities for students to strengthen their knowledge. The results should not be used to demean students or sanction our schools but rather as one tool that can provide guidance for where instruction or curriculum needs to be strengthened.

- I. The SBA is a more challenging test than OAKS and, as seen in other states that have administered the SBA, fewer Oregon students will meet benchmark than they did on the multiple-choice OAKS test. This does not mean, and should not be communicated to students and schools, that this is a “failure” but rather as an indication of the areas where we need to provide additional curricular or instructional support.

- J. The Portland Public Schools Board continues to support the elimination of the multiple-choice OAKS and moving toward a more challenging, summative assessment that is just one part of an overall program of assessment for learning and is not deemed “high stakes” or punitive.

- K. However, the Board continues to be concerned by the 7 to 8 1/2 hours of class time that students in grades 3-8 and 11 will spend taking the SBA, as well as the

3. The Portland Public Schools Board directs the Superintendent to ensure that administrators and teachers are communicating to students and families that while this is a more challenging test, lower scores than those on OAKS do not mean students or schools have “failed”. We will use scores to inform future instruction and identify where students and schools need additional supports.

4. The Portland Public Schools Board directs the Superintendent to ensure that Portland Public Schools administrators and teachers are not “teaching to the test” and that test preparation is limited to getting oriented to the testing interface rather than practicing or preparing for test content.