

# Memorandum



Sisters School District

## **Student Participation in State Testing is Important**

### **Participation Matters**

- Federal law requires all students to be tested. Before this law was put into place, student participation did not reflect diverse student populations. Often, the students who were left out were the students most in need of support.
- Oregon schools risk losing \$344 million in federal funds if our participation drops too low. In addition to the financial risk, there is also a very real impact on our district improvement efforts.
- Not having information on our students' academic progress limits our ability to accurately identify where students are struggling, where they are excelling, and whether we are fulfilling the goal of narrowing achievement gaps.
- It is critical for parents, teachers, and school and state leaders to receive meaningful information on how each student in Oregon is performing.
- Our school district's state report card will suffer if we do not have 95 percent of students take the test. Instead, we will be left with an incomplete and inaccurate picture of how students are performing across the state as well as how each local school is working to meet students' needs.

### **Test Results Offer Valuable Feedback**

- State test results provide clear, meaningful, and relevant feedback to students, parents, and educators on how prepared kids are for college and career so they can be successful in a globally-competitive world.
- The results identify students' strengths and areas for improvement.
- No student, parent, or teacher should be discouraged by the scores, which will never be used to determine whether a student moves on to the next grade or graduates. Rather, results will provide an opportunity to focus on the needs of the student and support teachers and schools in their work.
- Students who earn a Level 3 or 4 on the tests may use this to fulfill the Essential Skills requirement in order to graduate from high school.
- Students who earn a Level 3 or 4 on the tests and meet senior coursework requirements may also be able to forgo college placement testing and move directly into credit bearing courses in higher ed.