

# Oregon recruiting teachers to score tests

BEND (AP) — Oregon's new standardized test is a harder test for students, and it's also more difficult for evaluators to score.

The Smarter Balanced test measures how students are performing under the Common Core standards and includes more open-ended questions that can't be scored by a computer.

With that need for humans, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is accepting applications from teachers for a pilot program to train them to score Smarter Balanced tests outside their regular teaching duties.

The department will host a training session in Salem next month. Teachers will score tests from students across the country, not just in Oregon, for \$20 an hour, *The Bend Bulletin* newspaper reported.

More than 40 states have adopted Common Core, and 14 states are using the Smarter Balanced test.

When the state introduced Smarter Balanced, the question of whether teachers would be involved in the scoring came up often, said Bryan Toller, a math assessment specialist with ODE. It was something other states in the Smarter Balanced consortium asked about, too, he said.

"The idea is Smarter

Balanced is the consortium, the whole group of states. In my opinion, it's important to keep the states engaged and involved and keep the teachers engaged and involved," Toller said.

The department wants to recruit 40 teachers for the pilot program.

Last year, Oregon used a company called Data Recognition Corp. to score Smarter Balanced. This year it switched to Measurement Incorporated. In the pilot program, teachers will be supervised by Measurement Incorporated to ensure their scoring is accurate.

On its website, Measurement Incorporated lists openings for temporary workers to score tests, working remotely or at its scoring centers across the country. Job requirements include a bachelor's degree and, for those working remotely, access to a computer with high-speed internet. The jobs are not limited to teachers.

"I think it's good to get teachers' eyes on this test and the results, have them involved with the test," said Don Stearns, president of the Bend Education Association, the local teachers union. "Sometimes the lens of the teacher might be different than someone whose job is to write and score the test."

# Don't be fooled by scammers

Don't get fooled by scammers pretending to be from the FBI, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), U.S. Marshals Service, or any other federal agency.

Law enforcement officials are aware of a recent wave of scam attempts. Callers identify themselves as a federal officer and typically instruct people to wire "settlement" money to avoid arrest.

These phone calls are fraudulent. Federal agencies do not call or email individuals, threatening them to persuade them to send money.

There are many versions of this government impersonation scam, but they are all variations of the same tactic. The type of scam has been around for years and targets people across the nation. In 2016 reports have streamed in to law enforcement about attempts to scam residents throughout the country.

If you have been targeted by government-impersonating scammers, the sooner you report it, the better are the chances that law enforcement will be successful in their investigation. Here's how to report specific scam attempts:

- **FBI impersonation:** Scams impersonating the FBI have been around for years and continue today—sometimes citing current FBI Director James Comey or a local field office Special Agent in Charge. The FBI first warned the public in 2008 that "the fraudulent emails give

the appearance of legitimacy due to the usage of pictures of the FBI Director, seal, letterhead, and/or banners."

Call your local FBI office Portland Division: 503-224-4181.

- **IRS impersonation:** Last month, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) warned that criminals continue to impersonate IRS agents, resulting in reports of more than 1 million fraudulent contacts since October 2013 and more than 5,500 victims who have collectively lost approximately \$29 million.

Fill out the "IRS Impersonation scam" form on TIGTA's website, [www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact\\_report\\_scam.shtml](http://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml).

Contact Jacqueline Siegel at 503-265-3525 or [Jacqueline.Siegel@tigta.treas.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.Siegel@tigta.treas.gov).

- **U.S. Marshals impersonation and jury service scam:** The United States Courts warned that scammers are now more sophisticated, using official-sounding call centers and citing designated court hearing times. The U.S. Marshals Service has also received complaints of specific officer names or badge numbers being cited by scammers.

Call your local U.S. Marshals Service office in Oregon: 503-326-2209.

In addition, all types of fraud schemes and scams can always be reported to the

Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov). The following information is helpful to report:

- Header information from email messages;
- Identifiers for the perpetrator (e.g., name, website, bank account, email addresses);
- Details on how, why, and when you believe you were defrauded;
- Actual and attempted loss amounts;
- Details about the government impersonation; and
- Other relevant information you believe is necessary to support your complaint.

Filing a complaint through IC3's website allows analysts from the FBI to identify leads and patterns from the hundreds of complaints that are received daily. The sheer volume of complaints allows that information to come into view among disparate pieces, which can lead to stronger cases and help zero in on the major sources of criminal activity. The IC3 then refers the complaints, along with their analyses, to the relevant law enforcement agency for follow-up.

Learn about other common scams by visiting [www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/frauds-from-a-to-z](http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/frauds-from-a-to-z).



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