

Q: What is data?

A: A series of observations, measurements, or facts. Very simply, data is information.

Q: Are there data collection requirements mandated by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)?

A: No. The Common Core State Standards do not contain requirements related to data collection. Standards define expectations for what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade. Oregon has been involved in every step of the Common Core State Standard's development and adoption. Implementing the Common Core does not require data collection.

Q: How are data and the Common Core State Standards related?

A: Data and the Common Core are related through student testing. Student testing is the collection of data on how well students are meeting the standards defined by the Common Core. The CCSS replaces Oregon's previously state-adopted standards for English language arts and math, and Smarter Balanced is the test that replaces the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) in these two subjects.

Q: Why does the Oregon Department of Education collect data?

A: Accurate information about how our students and schools are doing is critical to the success of ODE's mission to foster excellence for every learner through innovation, collaboration, leadership, and service to our education partners. Data makes it possible to answer the question: How effective are the efforts of our state, districts, schools, and teachers in fostering excellence for every learner?

Q: What data does the Oregon Department of Education collect in relation to the Common Core State Standards?

A: The data most relevant to the Common Core State Standards are the Smarter Balanced test results. To make the best use of the test results additional information is collected which includes: Name, Date of Birth, Race/ Ethnicity, Language of Origin, Home Language, Student Class Schedule information, and Course Marks (grades earned). By collecting this type of information, we can track whether students are receiving the instruction and supports needed to successfully transition from grade to grade and graduate ready for college or a family-wage job.

Q: Do the Common Core State Standards compromise student privacy?

A: No. The Common Core State Standards define expectations for what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade. The CCSS do not contain requirements related to data collection or the sharing of student information.

Q: How does the Oregon Department of Education address student privacy concerns?

A: The Oregon Department of Education is committed to each and every student's privacy and the security of all data collected. To this end, ODE has established a comprehensive Information Security and Privacy Program. The mission of the Information Security and Privacy Program is to ensure that the Oregon Department of Education exceeds the State and Federal privacy rules and regulations, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), that govern the confidentiality and security of collected data.

Q: What steps does the Oregon Department of Education take to secure student data?

A: The Oregon Department of Education takes the security and privacy of all collected data very seriously. Access to ODE's data is highly restricted and agency staff are granted access only if needed to fulfill job responsibilities and even then the permissions granted are of limited duration and highly specific to the job requirements. The highest level security measures are taken with data known as Personally Identifiable Information (PII). PII is data that can be used to identify an individual, such as name and date of birth. PII is encrypted during transmission and highly sensitive data are encrypted within ODE's databases.