

## **Improving the Use of Assessments: Teach Plus Teachers Contribute to SMART Act (December 2014)**

### **The Issue**

Improving the use of assessments to ensure that they are aligned with standards.

### **What Our Teachers Want to See Happen**

Teach Plus teachers want to ensure that all assessments are aligned with the standards and meaningful to teaching and learning. Teachers also want to have time to use assessment data in order to inform instruction and promote student growth and achievement.

### **The Legislation**

The “Support Making Assessments Reliable and Timely” (SMART) Act allows states to use an existing funding stream to audit their use of testing and create a plan to eliminate unnecessary tests, as well as support the use and improvement of assessments that promote teaching and learning. The Act was introduced by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee, on December 8, 2014.

### **How Our Teachers Influenced This Legislation**

The recommendations that Teach Plus Teaching Policy Fellows provided on the draft legislation were included in the final bill. Key recommendations focus on ensuring that teachers have time to collaborate and plan instruction based on student and team data, and that an audit of the amount of instructional time spent on test preparation is included in any audit of assessment.

Read Teach Plus statement on the SMART Act