

Oregon's Decision to Explore New High School Statewide Assessment Options

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Why is the Oregon Department of Education considering a statewide high school assessment other than Smarter Balanced?

This proposed change comes in response to feedback received from stakeholders around the state that the statewide high school assessment should provide a direct benefit to students beyond meeting federal accountability requirements. Please see Deputy Superintendent [Salam Noor's column in the April 2017 Education Update](#) for more information on this decision.

Q2: How will ODE select a new high school assessment?

To begin this process, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) released on May 10, 2017, a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit details from potential vendors about their assessment offerings. Responses to this RFI will help inform ODE's next steps, including a formal Request for Proposals (RFP). An RFI only solicits information and does not result in a contract. The RFI will be open for responses until June 8, 2017.

Q3: What kind of details will ODE look to receive from potential test vendors through the RFI process?

ODE will review each RFI submission for information regarding things such as:

- Alignment to the learning standards
- Reliability and validity
- Comparability across schools and districts
- Accommodation and accessibility supports

Q4: If a new high school assessment is selected following the formal RFP process, when would it be administered in place of Smarter Balanced?

ODE will continue to implement the high school Smarter Balanced assessments through the 2017-18 school year. The earliest a new high school assessment would be implemented would be the 2018-2019 school year.

Q5: Students are required to take tests in English language arts (ELA), math, and science in high school. Will the new HS assessment cover all three of these content areas?

No. At this time ODE is focusing on nationally recognized assessments that meet the federal requirements for the content areas of ELA and math. For the science content area, ODE is currently working to revise the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) Science assessments at all grade bands, including high school, to align with the Next Generation Science Standards Oregon adopted in 2014.

Q6: What test will be given in grades 3-8?

ODE will continue to administer Smarter Balanced as Oregon's statewide summative assessment in grades 3-8 and has no plans to change tests at this time. However, in response to stakeholder feedback, ODE is currently exploring ways to streamline (and therefore reduce the administration time) Oregon's statewide summative assessments at grades 3-8 starting in the 2017-18 school year.

Q7: Will the change in high school assessment affect the Extended Assessment?

No. Oregon's Extended Assessment, which is designed for students with the most severe cognitive disabilities, will not be impacted. This shift toward a nationally recognized assessment only pertains to the grade level high school assessment and would not change the Extended Assessments in ELA, math, or science.