***Background***

A number of public schools, districts, and ESDs have purchased unmanned “drones” called small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) in State and Federal legislation. In 2017 there were some changes in registration requirements. Schools are now exempt from registering with the Oregon Department of Aviation. Federal rules no longer require registration for non-commercial us. Operators are still expected to adhere to safety precautions regarding certain restricted spaces. A good source of information about legal and safe use of a sUAS can be found at [FAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems website.](https://www.faa.gov/uas/)

***FAA Registration***

Federal registration requirements for an sUAS are based on the use and weight of the sUAS . An sUAS that is between 0.55 and 55 pounds must be registered if used for commercial purposes. Students who fly an sUAS as part of a class are generally considered non-commercial users. Teachers who fly an sUAS as part of a class may be considered commercial users because they are being paid to teach the class. This does not include incidental flying such assisting a student to recover an sUAS.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires commercial operators of an sUAS register the aircraft and acquire an FAA Remote Pilot Certificate. Information on obtaining an FAA Remote Pilot Certificate can be found at the [Getting Started page of the FAA website.](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/fly_for_work_business/becoming_a_pilot/) Currently, applicants must take the test at a Knowledge Testing Center. Locations of those centers can be found on this [list of testing centers](https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/media/test_centers.pdf) . There are numerous online test preparation sites as well as face-to-face classes. If you are an Oregon teacher and would like to find out about professional development that includes test preparation, contact Tom Thompson ([tom.thompson@ode.state.or.us](mailto:tom.thompson@ode.state.or.us)).

An sUAS can be registered with the FAA [online](https://registermyuas.faa.gov/). Registration is only required for an sUAS that is used for commercial purposes.

***Oregon Registration***

The Oregon Department of Aviation exempts schools from sUAS registration requirements.

***Questions***

The Oregon Department of Education provides this information as a service to educators. This information was current as of August 10, 2017. It is the responsibility of the sUAS owner to contact the appropriate State and Federal agencies for the most current requirements. The following web resources may be helpful in determining current rules.

[FAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems](https://www.faa.gov/uas/)

[Oregon Department of Aviation](https://www.oregon.gov/aviation/Pages/index.aspx)