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IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD	
NOVEMBER 12 – JANUARY 22	Report Validation Window: Fall Membership 2015-16
DECEMBER 17 – FEBRUARY 1	Collection Window for Staff Position 2015-16
JANUARY 5 – JUNE 10	OAKS Online Testing Window for Science and Social Sciences
JANUARY 11 - 25	Report Validation Window for 2015-16 Kindergarten Assessment results
JANUARY 21 - 29	District Data Collection Audit Review Window for Second Period Cumulative ADM 2015-16
JANUARY 22 - 24	OAKS Online Test Delivery System, TIDE, and Online Reporting System offline for scheduled maintenance
JANUARY 25 – MARCH 4	Testing Window for NAEP in selected schools
JANUARY 28	Public release of 2014-15 Dropout and Cohort Graduation Rate reports
FEBRUARY 1 - 26	Logramos Test Registration Window
FEBRUARY 2 – APRIL 12	English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21 st Century (ELPA21) K-12 Testing Window
FEBRUARY 4	Public release of Student Enrollment Report for 2015-16
FEBRUARY 5-7	OAKS Online Test Delivery System (TDS) offline for deployment of Smarter Balanced NEW
FEBRUARY 8	Public release of Kindergarten Assessment Report for 2015-16
FEBRUARY 9 – JUNE 10	Smarter Balanced Testing Window for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics NEW
FEBRUARY 11	OAKS Extended Assessment Secure Test Materials available for ELA, Mathematics, and Science NEW

Every Student Succeeds Act Update and Resources

We know that many of you have questions about the new [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) and what it means for schools, educators, and students here in Oregon.

Over the coming months, we will be engaging with educators and communities across the state around the development of our ESSA State Plan. Educator, student, and community voice is critical to this effort to ensure our final plan reflects Oregon’s values and aspirations for education. We look forward to working with all of you in the coming months around the development and review of our State Plan.

The following highlights and resources are provided to share an update on the new law, the current work underway, and the implementation plan and timeline.

Highlights of the Law

Maintains annual assessments

- States will still have to test students in reading and math in grades 3-8 and once in high school
- States will still test in science once in elementary school, once in middle school, and once in high school
- With state permission, districts may use a nationally-recognized assessment at the high school level in place of the state assessment. These assessments must meet a number of criteria including being aligned to state content standards
- Upholds requirement for 95% participation by all students and subgroups
- Allows up to 7 states to apply to pilot local tests for a limited time with permission from the U.S. Department of Education

Affords greater flexibility to design accountability system

- States will set their own targets and decide on their own path to improvement
- Replaces adequate yearly progress (AYP) with a state-defined index system with certain federally-required components (academic indicators and school quality or student success indicators)
- At least once every 3 years states must identify and intervene in schools, including: the lowest-performing 5% of Title I schools; high schools where the graduation rate is 67% or less; and schools with underperforming student groups

Ends federal mandate for educator evaluations and Highly Qualified Teachers

- It’s important to note that state law ([Senate Bill 290](#)) is still in effect
- Ends “Highly Qualified Teachers” requirement, but maintains state licensure and certification requirements

Oregon ESSA Timeline

January 2016	2015-2016 School Year	May-July 2016
ODE leadership group and workgroups established		Draft the consolidated state plan and solicit public input
ODE staff complete analysis of the law		
February-May 2016	2016-2017 School Year (Transition Year)	August 2016
Convene stakeholder workgroups		Complete a preliminary draft of consolidated state plan
Conduct statewide outreach for diverse stakeholder input		
	2016-2017 School Year (Transition Year)	
	Develop policy, guidance, OARs based on final regulations from USE	Revise state plan, as needed Draft legislative proposals for the 2017 legislative session (if needed)
	2017-2018 School Year (Implementation Year)	
	Implement new accountability system and all components of state plan	Provide professional development, technical assistance, and monitoring to ensure effective implementation across programs

Where to Learn More

- For a PowerPoint overview of changes to the law and the implementation timeline, [click here](#).
- For a PowerPoint comparing NCLB and ESSA, [click here](#).
- For a handout on the State Plan Development timeline, [click here](#).
- For a two pager on the key elements of ESSA, [click here](#).
- For additional resources, go to: <http://www.ed.gov/essa>.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Online Reporting System Webinars

The Oregon Department of Education and the American Institutes for Research (AIR), Oregon's test vendor for the OAKS, ELPA21, and Smarter Balanced assessments, will conduct two webinars focusing on how to use the Online Reporting System (ORS). Each webinar will take approximately one hour. The webinars are scheduled from **9 a.m. to 10 a.m. PT on Monday, January 25** and from **3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. PT on Wednesday, January 27**. The same material will be covered in both trainings. You must register in advance if you want to attend a webinar. To register, go to <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/rt/2093454018527409409>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about how to log into the webinar.

These trainings are optional. However, new ORS users will find them useful for learning how to navigate ORS and find the information they want, and experienced ORS users will have the opportunity to learn about system enhancements for 2015-16. Please contact your [Regional ESD Partner](#) with questions.

Informal DTC Webinar Materials

The materials from the Informal DTC Webinar held on January 13, 2016 have now been posted [here](#) toward the bottom of the webpage. They include the PowerPoint presented by ODE, along the questions asked by the field and ODE responses to those questions. If you are not currently registered and would like to virtually attend these monthly webinars, please register [here](#).

Thank you to all of you that submitted questions ahead of time and participated on the Webinar last week.

Test Administration

HOLLY CARTER – INTERIM DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT

www.ode.state.or.us/go/assessment

OAKS TA User Guide

The [OAKS Online TA User Guide](#) has also been updated to include new information on administering the ELPA21 Domain Exemptions in 2015-16, as well as the removal of classroom activities for Smarter Balanced Assessments. Please see Appendix K Change Log for all changes.

If the link is still showing the PDF posted in November, be sure to clear your cache and try again.

■ ELPA21

ELPA21 K-1 Paper-Pencil

The [ELPA21 K-1 Paper-Pencil Receipt of Test Materials in Schools](#) document has been updated to include where to find tracking information and who to contact with discrepancies with your order.

ELPA21 Recruitment: Contrasting Groups Study **REPEAT**

The Oregon Department of Education, as a member of the ELPA21 consortium, is seeking educators to participate in a Contrasting Groups Study during February and March 2016. This study will ask

educators to evaluate their current English Learners' English proficiency in relation to newly-drafted ELPA21 policy descriptors, and to share those educated judgments with us. The educators' approximations of language proficiency will then be compared to student performance on the 2015-16 ELPA21 Assessment as part of a standards setting ("cut scores") event in July 2016. At that event, the consortium will set cut scores for the ELPA21 assessment. The consortium will also finalize ELPA21's policy descriptors and performance descriptors at that time.

The key educator input from this Contrasting Groups Study will inform the final ELPA21 descriptors and the first cut scores that will measure our students' performance on ELPA21 and inform program exiting decisions. The study will also provide an important professional development opportunity for Oregon educators to work with the new descriptors and to internalize performance targets.

Potential participants should be current educators who are working in a K-12 classroom-level environment with identified English Learners who are receiving ELD instruction (no waived or monitor students). To apply, educators will need to complete an online application, estimated at 15-20 minutes. Once the educator is confirmed for participation in the study, the study's vendor, Pacific Metrics, will send information about the orientation webinar. Once that 1-hour training is complete, educators can begin sharing information about the ELs they teach, via a confidential online system. Participating educators are asked to submit information on as many students as possible. The recruitment period for this study is **January 12 to February 4, 2016**, and the study itself will be conducted from **February 15 through March 31**. Proficiency judgments can be entered at any time during the study window, but it is ideal if the approximations are made as closely as possible to the student participation in the operational ELPA21, and the approximations should be made prior to the student beginning the ELPA21. Total participation time in this study is 2 to 3 hours, depending on the total number of students that the educator includes. Participating educators can earn up to three hours of PDUs (based on the total of student information provided by the individual educator), once all results have been recorded and provided to ODE.

To be considered for participation in this opportunity, please use this [link](#) and submit your information on or before the end of the day on **Thursday, February 4, 2016**. If you have any questions, please contact [Michelle McCoy](#).

ELPA21 Practice Test Now Available **REPEAT**

The online practice tests for all grade bands of ELPA21 are now available for use beginning on **Monday, January 11**. The ELPA21 practice test for iPads requires an update to the operating system. ODE and AIR anticipate that practice test opening **February 2, 2016**. An update to the iOS secure browser application will also be required. The ELPA21 practice tests are best viewed with the OAKS Secure Browser, which is available to download on the [OAKS Portal](#). The practice tests can also be viewed on Chrome or Firefox, but the microphone verification and the speaking segment will include pop-up boxes for the recordings. The practice tests for ELPA21 are slightly different from the previous Oregon ELPA practice tests in that the items included are to assist with the functionality of the test itself, rather than providing an example of all the various item types that a student may encounter on the operational assessment. ELPA21 was designed around task types with varying functionality depending upon the task itself. Reviewing the ELPA21 Test Specifications and Blueprints documents which will be found [here](#) will help staff become familiar with the tasks types that students will encounter at each grade band of the ELPA21. The Test Specifications documents will be added to the web page as they are finalized. Reviewing the online practice test will help staff and students become familiar with the response styles of example tasks that will appear on the assessment.

In addition to the online practice test, ODE has created sample Kindergarten and 1st grade paper-pencil writing section documents. The paper-pencil samples include the Directions For Administration (DFA) scripts and instructions for each grade, which mirror the operational paper-pencil writing sections. The sample test questions for student response mirror the operational paper-pencil writing items that the students will complete during the test window. The sample DFAs and student booklets can be found on the ELPA21 Tools and Resources page [here](#).

During 2015-16, ELPA21 practice and operational assessments will be available on laptops, desktops, Chromebooks, and iPad devices. ELPA21 will **not** be available on Android tablets during the 2015-16 assessment window.

If you have any questions about the OAKS Secure Browser, or the use of the ELPA21 practice test, please contact your [Regional ESD Partner](#). For questions regarding the ELPA21 Test Specifications and Blueprints documents, please contact [Michelle McCoy](#).

■ EXTENDED ASSESSMENT

No articles this week

■ KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENT

2015-16 Kindergarten Assessment Report Validation Window - Updated **REPEAT**

The 2015-2016 preliminary Oregon Kindergarten Assessment results are now available for districts to review in the Kindergarten Assessment Validation located in the Achievement Data Insight (ADI) Application **through Monday, January 25, 2016**. ODE will refresh the preliminary data on **Friday, January 22** (*which includes edits made through January 19*). Statewide data will be released to the public on **Monday, February 8, 2016**.

Reminder: Kindergarten Assessment subgroup information (gender and race/ethnicity) is taken from Fall Membership extract, and the last day to make changes to Fall Membership data is Friday, January 22. If you notice discrepancies in your validation subgroup data, please submit a request to open First Period Cumulative ADM to your [Regional ESD Partner](#). Changes to subgroup data must be made in First Period Cum ADM no later than Friday, January 22.

Contact your District Security Administrator (DSA) if you do not have access to the validation. If you don't know who your DSA is, you can look them up [here](#).

■ SMARTER BALANCED

Smarter Balanced Testing Opens February 9

The 2015-16 statewide test window for Smarter Balanced Assessments is open from **February 9 - June 10**. Smarter Balanced tests are available for English language arts and mathematics and are required for students in grades 3-8 and 11. Local test windows must be set to ensure students only test after 66% of a school's instructional days for the 2015-16 school year have been completed (except for grade 12 retests which may be administered at any time during the state window).

The tests are each administered in two parts – the Performance Tasks and Computer Adaptive Test. As a reminder, new for 2015-16, there is no longer a classroom activity component preceding the performance task.

■ SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

No articles this week

Accessibility Supports

SARAH DRINKWATER – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, STUDENT SERVICES

www.ode.state.or.us/go/ExtendedAssessments

2015-16 Oregon Accessibility Manual (OAM)

The 2015-16 Oregon Accessibility Manual is posted on the Statewide Assessment Accessibility Supports webpage at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=487>. ODE does not anticipate additional changes or updates being made to it for this school year. The OAM provides districts, schools, and IEP teams policies and requirements that will govern the provision of accessibility supports for students participating in Oregon’s Statewide Assessments.

Contact Brad Lenhardt at brad.lenhardt@state.or.us with any questions.

Setting Text-to-Speech in TIDE **REPEAT**

As stated in Oregon’s Accessibility Manual, Text-to-Speech(TTS) is an Embedded Designated Support for the following:

- **Items Only in English Language Arts**
- Items and/or Stimuli in Math
- Items and/or Stimuli in OAKS Science & Social Sciences

TTS is an embedded accommodation (requiring documentation in an IEP or 504 plan) for stimuli in English Language Arts.

Text-to-Speech could not be divided into two categories on the student settings page in TIDE (i.e., Designated Support and Accommodation) this year. Therefore, both items, stimuli, and stimuli & items are all located under the same drop-down menu under Embedded Designated Supports. **Please make sure to exercise extreme caution when selecting this support for students** in order avoid a testing impropriety for students not on an IEP or 504 plan.

For guidance on allowable Accessibility Supports, refer to the [Oregon Accessibility Manual](#).

Essential Skills

CRISTEN McLEAN – ASSESSMENT POLICY ANALYST

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/ES>

No articles this week

Accountability Reporting

JON WIENS – MANAGER, ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING

www.ode.state.or.us/go/AsmtRpt

Staff Position Collection Currently Open

The Staff Position collection is currently open and will close at **11:59 PM on Monday, February 1**. For more information regarding this collection, please view the Staff Position Manual located in the *Documents* section of the [Schedule of Due Dates](#). You may also view the recording of the [video training](#), which occurred on December 10 or contact [Beth Blumenstein](#) at 503-947-5767 or your [Regional ESD Partner](#).

ODE to Release Graduation Rates January 28 – Embargoed Files Available January 25

Cohort Graduation and NCES Dropout rates will be released **Thursday, January 28**. To obtain a copy of the **embargoed** data files prior to the public release, please email Crystal Greene at crystal.greene@state.or.us and the files will be sent to you by 6pm on **Monday the 25th**.

These files will remain embargoed until 12:01 AM on Thursday, January 28 and must not be publically shared, published, or distributed until after that time. It is ok to share this information with key school/district leadership as long as it remains internal. It is also ok to discuss this information with members of the media who have received advanced, embargoed copies of the data from ODE. However, please do not present this information publically (including at School Board meetings) until the 28th.

REMINDER: Fall Membership Validation **REPEAT**

The Fall Membership validation (currently available in the [Achievement Data Insight](#)) will close on **Friday, January 22**. All changes to First Period Cumulative ADM must be completed on this date. If you have questions, please contact your [Regional ESD Partner](#).

Second Period Cumulative ADM Audit/Review Window **REPEAT**

The Second Period Cumulative ADM Audit/Review Window will open after 1 PM on **Thursday, January 21** and will remain open until **Friday, January 29**. Please log into your Second Period Cumulative ADM on January 21 to review your audits. Audits are located in the Error Management menu. For more information regarding audits, please review the [2015-2016 Cumulative ADM Audits/Review Manual](#) at the [ADM Resources webpage](#), or contact Beth Blumenstein at beth.blumenstein@state.or.us at 503-947-5767 or contact your [Regional ESD Partner](#).

Future Assessment Development

HOLLY CARTER – DIRECTOR, ASSESSMENT

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/assessment>

No articles this week

■ **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**

No articles this week