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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) Webinars

The Oregon Department of Education and Cambium Assessment (CAI) have scheduled two **optional** webinars:

- **Tuesday, November 10** from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. PT
- **Thursday, November 12** from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. PT

The same material will be covered in both trainings. While these webinars are open to any TIDE user role, you must [register](#) in advance if you want to attend a webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about how to log into the webinar. Please contact your [Regional ESD Partner](#) with questions.

Monthly DTC Webinars Starting Next Month

District Test Coordinator (DTC) Webinars will begin on **December 9 from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. PT** and continue on the second Wednesday of each month through June. These monthly DTC webinars are an optional (but encouraged) space for DTCs to receive reminders and participation opportunities, hear more in-depth information on specific topics relating to assessment, participate in a live question and answer session, and use as a share-space for hearing practices other districts may be using.

An e-mail will be sent out a week prior to the webinar to gather feedback from DTCs on topics they would like covered, as well as questions to address. **It is critical that DTCs submit these questions ahead of time** to ensure that ODE has the proper personnel and well thought-out answers available during the webinar.

We will not host a webinar unless we have at least 15 minutes of substantive content to discuss. This typically translates to four or more questions/topics on the agenda. We'll follow the general structure defined below:

1. Welcome and introductions (2 minutes)
2. Provide ODE updates (5 minutes)
3. Answer questions submitted by DTCs (10 minutes)

4. Present long-term vision/planning (5 minutes)
5. Clarify next steps and adjourn (2 minutes)

The times are approximate. We will try to limit the duration to 30 minutes. If we do not have sufficient content to justify a webinar, we'll answer any questions via a Q & A email or in the A&A Update, as appropriate.

Here are the following dates to [register](#) (all webinars will be held from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. PT):

- Wed, Dec 9, 2020
- Wed, Jan 13, 2021
- Wed, Feb 10, 2021
- Wed, Mar 10, 2021
- Wed, Apr 14, 2021
- Wed, May 12, 2021
- Wed, Jun 9, 2021

Reminder: Annual DTC Training Requirements

This is a reminder that District Test Coordinators (DTCs) must [register](#) and participate in the annual test security and administration training provided by ODE. The final opportunity will be held today, November 5 from 3:45 – 5:15pm. *DTCs who do not participate in annual test security and administration training **will have their current access to the OSAS system revoked after the final ODE-facilitated webinar and may not receive important updates sent to the DTC listserv thereafter.***

Tools for Teachers Scheduled Maintenance

The Smarter Balanced [Tools for Teachers website](#) is scheduled to undergo a planned enhancement on **Thursday, November 12 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Pacific**. We do not anticipate a Tools for Teachers website outage, but there is a possibility of intermittent service interruptions during this time. Smarter Balanced will be monitoring the website during the upgrade to ensure the least amount of disruption to users as possible. For more information on Tools for Teachers and the formative assessment process, please visit ODE's [Formative Assessment webpage](#). Contact [Andy Byerley](#), Mathematics Assessment Specialist, or [Tony Bertrand](#), ELA and Social Sciences Assessment Specialist, with any questions.

2020-21 Qualified Trainer Webinar Training Notice REPEAT

The Oregon Department of Education's Assessment Team and colleagues from Behavioral Research & Teaching with the University of Oregon will be providing a series of online webinar trainings for returning and new Qualified Trainers (QTs) for the Oregon Extended Assessment. Please keep in mind that educators must have been Qualified Assessors (QAs) before they are eligible to become new QTs. The links below can be used to register for the training that best matches context and availability. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

- **Thursday, November 12, 2020** 9:00 - 10:30 AM (Returning QTs only; [register](#))
- **Thursday, November 12, 2020** 3:00 - 5:00 PM (New QTs only; [register](#))
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2020** 9:00 - 10:30 AM (Returning QTs only; [register](#))
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2020** 3:00 - 5:00 PM (New QTs only; [register](#))

Educators who are planning to serve as new or returning Qualified Assessors (QAs) in 2020-21 are encouraged to contact district and/or Education Service District assessment staff for information regarding Qualified Assessor training offerings provided by current Qualified Trainers at their district or in their region. Please contact [Dan Farley](#), Director of Assessment, with any questions.

TEST ADMINISTRATION

INTERIM ASSESSMENTS

Interim Assessment Professional Learning Materials

The Oregon Department of Education, Assessment team has concluded its Interim Assessment Webinar Series. To further support districts, schools, and educators, ODE has posted all professional learning resources to the [Interim Assessment Website](#) under the *Interim Professional Development Materials Folder*.

Interim Assessment Professional Learning Materials include facilitator guides with speaking notes and accompanying resources and PowerPoint presentations. Please note PowerPoint presentations are best viewed in presentation mode due to images that are inserted in the presentations and included animations. ODE is in the process of converting presentations into video formats which should be made available on the Interim Assessment Website in the coming weeks.

For additional information or clarification, please contact [Tony Bertrand](#), ELA Assessment Specialist, [Andy Byerley](#), Math Assessment Specialist, or [Noelle Gorbett](#), Science Assessment Specialist.

2020-2021 Interim Assessments Now Available **REPEAT**

The statewide test window for the Oregon Interim Assessment System in ELA and Math is now open for the 2020-2021 school year. Schools and districts may administer these assessments to students in-person or remotely. For specific information on how to administer these assessments remotely are available in the [Quick Guide to Administering Interim Assessments Remotely](#).

As a reminder, [Training Module 8 - Interims: Remote Administration and Test Security](#), posted by the ODE Assessment team, **is required for all educators to complete** before their District Test Coordinator (DTC) can provide user role access to the Interim Assessment System.

For additional information or clarification, please contact [Tony Bertrand](#), ELA Assessment Specialist, [Andy Byerley](#), Math Assessment Specialist, or [Noelle Gorbett](#), Science Assessment Specialist.

SCIENCE

2020-2021 Science Interim Assessments **REPEAT**

Science Interim Assessments are now available for purchase for the 2020-2021 school year. Purchases can be made by district, or for specific schools within a district. The Science Interim Assessments are aligned to the NGSS Science content standards and include the full array of accessibility resources used for the OSAS Science Assessment, including TTS, Spanish translation, and Braille. For more information about the Science Interim Assessments, please refer to the [Science Interim Assessments Information Sheet](#).

The Science Interim Assessments are offered at \$4.95 per enrolled students in grades 5, 8, and 11. Students in grades 3 through high school are permitted to utilize the assessment bank as deemed appropriate by the school and educator.

Districts or schools interested in purchasing the Science Interim Assessments for 2020-2021, please contact [Margaux Nielsen](#) or [Noelle Gorbett](#) for additional information or questions.

ACCOUNTABILITY & REPORTING

Fall Membership Validation Opens Today, November 5 **REPEAT**

The Fall Membership validation will open on Thursday, November 5, 2020 and close on **January 22, 2021**. The 2020-21 [student membership manual](#) has been posted. If you have any questions, please contact your [Regional ESD Partner](#) or [Robin Stalcup](#).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: Now that the Performance Tasks (PT) have been removed from the ELA and mathematics summative assessments, what are the new rules around when a student gets a Performance Level when they do not complete an assessment (e.g., they have to finish X number of questions on the remaining CAT test)?

Answer: The 2020-2021 scoring specifications state that a student will get a performance level when they answer at least one (1) item. This rule will apply to both the ELA and mathematics summative assessments. All unanswered items will be counted as zeroes. It's important for districts to provide the opportunity for students to complete their assessments.