

DTC Webinar: Q&A Session – June 9, 2021

Interim Assessments

Q How far into the future will Interim assessments be available to districts?

- The legislature did not fund our request to provide the interim assessments and the Tools for Teachers supports for the next biennium. We have them statewide at no additional cost for 2021-22 and will try to determine how to fund them with other funding sources thereafter.

Q: When will Interims be available? Sept? or earlier?

- Interim assessments will be available starting August 17, 2021.

Student Test Scores

Q I vaguely remember one year entering all the opt out information and then it being wiped out for some reason so I had to enter them again. When is it safe to add the opt out codes in student centered staging?

- This problem has been addressed and there are no threats to data being lost present in the current system.

ISRs and ORS

Q So, the ISRs that are currently in Secure Assessment 2.0 are considered "unofficial? What exactly does 'unofficial' mean? Should we use 'unofficial' scores?

- "Unofficial" means that districts have not yet had a chance to perform their year-end data validation. Data in ORS are not subject to yearly district validation, so they are labeled "unofficial." Official ISRs are those published by ODE through our SAR system.

Q Assessment results are supposed to be available on the state portal, but 2020-21 is not an available selection in ORS. Why is that?

- Unofficial results were not made available on ORS in 2020-21 in order to mitigate the risks involved in using summative results for high-stakes student decisions, especially around course placement which typically happen during or just after the test window closes. Official student results will be available from ODE after districts complete the data validation process.

Q Why are assessment results not available in ORS nor in ADI? I have schools really wanting to see how their kids are doing, but I don't have a reasonable way for them to do that. The apps (secure assessment 2.0 and AWE) are not user-friendly places for school principals to go.

There was concern regarding misuses of data from statewide summative assessments this year, most of which occur at the systems level. ODE does not want results from this year compared across schools or districts nor across time. At the student level, we did not want the data used for any high stakes decisions such as course placement. We wanted time to ensure that the shortened test blueprints were functioning as intended, as well.

Q I've been out on leave since January (while someone else stood in as DTC for me) and a lot has changed. Is there someone I can chat with to make sure I'm closing out correctly?

- In this situation, we recommend contacting your ESD Partner. In addition, ODE set up a mentoring system for new DTCs at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year that will again be available for the 2021-22 school year.

RFP for Nationally normed college entrance practice examination

Q Assuming that the current request for proposal reaches a successful conclusion, when will the nationally normed 10th grade college preparation exam be in place?

- Testing would begin in the 2021-22 school year.

Kindergarten Assessment

Q I assume all the feedback gathered a couple of years ago from the KA focus groups will be included/reviewed?

- ODE will begin the engagement process by reviewing what has been collected related to the KA historically, yes.

Q Are we doing the KG assessment in 2021-2022 school year? If so, what is the test window?

- The Kindergarten Assessment is suspended for the academic calendar of 2021-22 (Fall). There is thus no test window. ODE will be engaging education and community partners to determine how to redesign the Kindergarten Assessment in the fall of 2021 and hope to have a new system in place by the fall of 2022.

Training Modules

Q DTC training Module 8 will be available Aug 7, 2021 so educators can use the interims. However, teachers need to have training on Modules 2, 3 & 4 to access the OSAS system (if they are new this year). Should we use this 2020-21 modules to train them?

- Remember that returning users do not have to participate in annual trainings until the DTC's annual schedule is enacted. For new users, the 2020-21 modules can be used; however, we are making efforts to update Modules 2, 3, and 4 by August 7, 2021 to support teachers for the coming year.

Q Will the information on summative and interim continue to be merged in the training modules, the TAM, and the OAM?

- There is overlap among those applications and the interim system and Tools for Teachers is part of Oregon's statewide assessment system. There is no plan to publish the same guidance in multiple locations.

Q When the PT is added back to ELA, does that mean the Writing subscore can still be used to meet the Essential Skills requirement?

- The Essential Skills requirements have been suspended by Senate Bill 744 through the 2023-24 school year, so that context does not apply for the coming three years. The writing subscore from the PT would have been possible to use in this context if the context had not changed, yes.

Q How do we put on information the online students who never opted out and never tested?

- There is no action required in this situation. The data from this year will not be clean or complete. What ODE has asked is that only those for whom opt-out notices, or other relevant codes in Appendix C in the TAM, are received are coded as such. Non-participation will be handled with a data review, comparing those who participated to those who did not (i.e. missing data will be associated with non-participation for eligible students).