

DTC Webinar: Q&A Session – August 26, 2020

2020-21 Statewide Standardized Testing

Q: I imagine the answer is “no” primarily for test security and item protection reasons, but is ODE at all discussing the possibility of any remote testing for required state assessments.

- ODE does not consider remote testing as a viable possibility for the spring summative assessment administration at present. Discussions are ongoing and there may be new technology options that are present when the time comes that are not available right now. We are monitoring the nationwide discussion.

Q: Options for assessment during CDL?

- ODE does not know if this will be feasible, as we cannot predict what the impact on schools will be and how many schools may be in an in-person context. At present, in-person administration is a limitation of our statewide summative assessment system. Students who have internet accessibility may use the interim assessments.

Q: Will we still adhere to the 66% instructional requirement?

- ODE’s shift of the test window in effect removed this requirement/expectation.

Q: How are we testing when we have no students in buildings and may not the entire year?

- ODE does not have remote assessment capability for our summative assessments at present. If that continues to be the case at a substantial level through the spring then that helps us frame our assessment possibilities. The results from any summative assessments in the spring would have a caveat around them, as we could not use those data to compare schools or districts, assuming they are feasible to implement, which may not be the case.

Q: To confirm, 11th graders will be required to take assessments.

- The current plan is that all students in grades 3-8 and 11 who have access to in person classes will be taking the summative assessments. Given the pandemic and all of the unknowns, it is impossible to predict what the spring will look like.

Q: Are new manuals, referenced in last slide, already posted? I see only 2019.

- The ELPA Screener Administration Manual has been posted for 2020-21. No other manuals have yet been posted for 2020-21.

Q: Please confirm, the 10th grade “target up” is banked for participation and accountability purposes?

- Those that are proficient, yes. That will be the practice that ODE adheres to.

Q: I’m not sure if this is the right venue, but is there information on the Dyslexia Screener administration in a CDL model?

- This guidance is under development right now and should be coming out soon. The Office of Enhancing Student Opportunity is developing that guidance.

Q: If we are back in school (either comprehensive or hybrid) is it safe to assume that ELPA summative assessments will happen this spring?

- The ELPA summative assessment in the spring is one of the assessments we’re most concerned about making feasible because of the fact that it is used to make decisions at the individual student level. If there is any possible way to conduct the ELPA summative assessment this spring, we will pursue it.

Q: I may have missed this, what might accountability measures look like for 2020-21?

- Discussions around accountability are ongoing. [Jon Wiens](#), the Director of Accountability, should be contacted for an answer to this question.

Q: What about students who were not able to finish their state assessments last spring?

- Statewide assessments not completed last spring have expired and will not be reported.

Q: You said 3-8, 11th students who are in "in-person educational environment" are required to test. If a student opts into remote learning (when we're back in a in-person or hybrid model) they will NOT be required to assess?

- This is a great question and one that we won’t be able to answer until we get closer to understanding the educational landscape in the spring. ODE will consider several factors in making decisions in this area, including education and community partner feedback, the potential generalizability of the results, and cost/benefit analysis.

Q: I had some students opt out of ELPA summative, the only OSAS assessment that we almost completed. Since we received no validation opportunity to add administrative codes to virtual tests, does the ELPA opt out count matter?

- While the phrase “opt out” in this question may be intended in the casual sense of “refuse to participate,” it is important to remember that ELP testing is a federal requirement and not subject to opt out (which applies only to Oregon’s ELA and Math summative assessments). There is a state regulation which allows for parent exemption for reasons of disability or religion (see Test Administration Manual for more details).
- ODE received a waiver for all ESSA assessment and accountability requirements for the 2020-21 school year, so there will be no impact on districts related to this or other assessment and accountability expectations.

Q: I work for a virtual charter school with students in many districts. How do we determine who to test (in-person/summative assessment) if/when some districts open? Would we be required to test students who reside in districts that are open? Do we have to wait until our sponsoring district is open? Or wait until all our students are permitted to be in-person before testing any students?

- In the event that statewide summative assessments are feasible this spring, we will work with all schools, including virtual charter schools, to determine how to reach students in a manner that adheres to health and safety requirements.

Q: This year's 12th graders may take the assessments this year?

- Yes, ODE is extending the option to 12th graders. Even though they do not have to take the assessments for Essential Skills purposes, we understand some want to take the assessment for college placement purposes.

Q: Will we get clear guidance on what "advanced coursework" means?

- "Advanced coursework" is not a formally defined term or prerequisite for targeting up. It is a general phrase indicating that a given Grade 10 student is ready to demonstrate their knowledge and skills on a Grade 11 test.

Q: May test assurance security training forms be signed digitally?

- Yes. Districts should have a process in place to save and file hard-copy backups of digitally signed documents.

Q: Are you developing parent tutorials with screenshots for remote assessments and access to interim assessments?

- There are some supplemental materials available for parents. ODE is working with Smarter Balanced for some translated materials in Spanish as well. Also working with our California partners and relationship there to support this process as well. As new resources are developed, we will continue to share it out through the AA Update, DTC listserv, and interim assessment webpage.

Q: Will they be available in other languages for ELL parents?

- Spanish versions of training modules developed by ODE and BRT are in development.

Q: What training should we use if we need to add new TA's who did not complete the training last year?

- If an educator does not have a 2019-20 TA user role, they must complete the reading requirements in Table 5 of the [Test Administration Manual](#) and the ODE-provided training modules 2 - 4 posted to the [Assessment Training Materials](#) webpage.

Interim Assessments

Q: What would be the time requirement to train teachers on the interim assessment? We're trying to figure out how to add this to their existing load.

- It depends on a couple of things. Is the district/educator used to using an interim assessment system? If so, understanding how to use that interim assessment system in instruction is a big part of the learning curve. In terms of going in and using the system, if a teacher has created a test session in the past it is the same process. If a teacher has some schema of the OSAS Portal they could be up and running in an hour or two. If it is a new educator, I would double that. Of course it will take time and iteration to skillfully weave the interim assessment system into a coherent instructional and assessment plan.

Q: Is the \$4.95 for science interim assessment based on total district enrollment or testable grade levels only?

- At the tested grade only, however all students in the school/grade band could use the bank. For example, in a K-5 school, the school would pay \$4.95 per 5th grade student and all students in the school could then use the interim bank. This would work slightly differently in K-8 or K-12 schools. The school would need to purchase for students in 8th and 11th grades as well to maintain school-wide access; otherwise, access would be limited to grade bands (ES, MS, HS). More information about Science Interim banks can be found in the [Science Interim Information Flyer](#).

Q: Ben introduced the idea of a balanced assessment system. Does that foreshadow an English Language Proficiency Interim Assessment?

- There is currently no work being done on an ELPA Interim but discussions are ongoing with ELPA21.

Q: Is funding secured to ensure that interim assessments are available beyond 2020-21?

- Yes.

Q: There was mention of test security training requirements for Interim Assessments. Can you elaborate on this? Are these considered secure? Are teachers allowed to review, discuss, and dissect these questions? With other teachers? With students? Noelle later said they could be discussed.

- Interim items are "secure but sharable." District staff and students are allowed to share, review, and talk about interim items and resources within their educational context. interim information such as test item details are considered secure in the sense that it may not be shared outside the educational context (i.e. it cannot be shared with parents, community members, or the general public in any form).

Q: Can any of the interim assessment score information be exported for inclusion in teacher systems alongside other student performance data?

- The Interim Assessment Reporting System has a function which allows educators to download a csv. or xls. file. However, the Individual Student Reports (ISRs) associated with the Interim Comprehensive Assessment can only be downloaded as a PDF at the individual level. ODE will be posting an Interim Assessment Centralized Reporting System User Guide in the coming weeks.

Q: Can you elaborate on what it might look like to give an interim assessment during comprehensive distance learning? The fact that it isn't secure, can we assign it to kids and have them do it with their parents?

- There's a [Quick Guide to Administering Interim Assessments Remotely](#) that goes into the expectation on how to do that correctly. The point of that remote administration is so that it can be successful in a home environment. Parents might need to help set up the technology, we would not necessarily want parents looking at the items. The OSAS Portal has also been updated to provide resources and a [Remote Student Testing Browser](#) without needing to download the secure browser.

Q: Each of the Interim Assessment Training Sessions will run roughly 1 hour?

- Yes.

Q: There was a mention of the training requirements for teachers to access the Interim Assessments, what were the requirements?

- In the presentation, ODE shared that returning teachers had no additional training requirements and new or transferring teachers would be required to complete the TAM readings outlined in Table 5 and Modules 2, 3, and 4.
- However, since the Interim Assessment SYstem is new, ODE developed an additional Module 8 PPT to provide educators with an overview of the system, including administration for in-person and remote. ODE will send out a DTC announcement when this Module has been posted to the DTC training site. This will be required for all educators regardless of whether they had a TA account last year or not.

Nationally Normed College Entrance Practice Test

Q: Is it required for the PSAT to be offered at a school?

- The contract for the Nationally Normed College Entrance practice exam may or may not go to College Board and may or may not result in the PSAT. A Request for Proposal (RFP) is under development to help fill this need and will result in an open, competitive process. The statutory requirement is that ODE make such an assessment available for Districts, and that Districts make the exam available for the students who choose to use it. Students and families decide whether they want to participate, so it is optional at the student level.

Q: Just to clarify, does ODE has a proposal out for a replacement for the PSAT?

- ODE is in the process of writing the RFP. It may or may not result in a replacement depending on the vendor(s) who respond and how responsive they are.

Q: I've already ordered the PSAT materials, should I cancel?

- Any investment that is made for the PSAT is at district risk, the risk being that ODE may not be able to provide reimbursement for that pending the RFP. We will work to support our districts to help make sense of this situation. Please reach out to the Director of Assessment with any questions.

Q: Has funding has been identified and approved?

- Yes, the money to sustain the nationally-normed college entrance practice examination is set aside.

Q: Will districts be reimbursed if they offer the PSAT to 10th grade students?

- If the vendor that is selected by the RFP process happens to be College Board and the PSAT and chosen then there is a possibility that districts might be reimbursed. We will work to support our districts to help make sense of this situation. Please reach out to the Director of Assessment with any questions.

Q: Are schools required to provide at least one nationally normed test? They may or may not select the one ODE provides?

- ORS 329.488 requires ODE and districts to make a nationally-normed college entrance practice examination available to 10th graders. The Assessment Team is not aware of any additional state or federal requirement in that space.

Test Groups

Q: If a user is to have multiple test groups in TIDE, do we create one line per a test group, per a user?

- Test groups are selected via mix-and-match checkboxes in TIDE.

Q: Can we set up TAs now?

- Yes.

Q: What is the purpose of “test groups”?

- Test groups give districts the ability to control which TA can administer which tests. There are three groups: ELPA Screener, Interim, or Summative. The DTC may assign a TA any combination of the three. These are like an on/off switch to access a test. Test groups may be adjusted at the individual TA account level or *en masse* via batch upload.

Q: Did you say DTC's must contact you first in order to set Test Groups in TIDE?

- DTCs already have the ability to set test groups for TA accounts. DTCs must contact their Regional ESD partner to set the Test Group for their own DTC account.

Q: I just realized what I am looking at is different from what I understood at the end of the year. ELPA Summative is not grouped with ELPA Screener?

- You are correct, ELPA Summative and Screener are grouped separately. This is by district request.

Q: Can we just put all TAs in all groups and call it a day?

- Yes. It is possible to batch upload test groups and give all district TAs full access to the suite of assessments in the OSAS. Doing so comes with some risk that the provision of the test groups is meant to help address in terms of test improprieties, however, as that would allow for those without requisite training to access assessments beyond their purview to a greater degree.