

## DTC Webinar: Q&A Session – December 9, 2020

### General

Q: I had a teacher ask me yesterday that they had heard "an interim assessment cannot be used as a grade in my gradebook." Meaning that if I give an interim assessment to my class, in place of an assessment I would have created, then I cannot put the assessment in the gradebook. Does this make sense?

- It is defensible to use an interim assessment if it follows standard summative test protocols and is couched within an equitable approach to grading that has multiple sources and represents multiple modes of evidence of learning collection. I'm not sure where that information is coming from; it might be around the confusion surrounding the results of the interim assessments and keeping accountability separate. ODE is trying to insulate the uses of the interim assessment system from accountability. If it's woven into an equitable grading process and administered according to standardized protocols it's a defensible use of the system.

Q: Is the dyslexia screener required this year during CDL?

- Comprehensive Distance Learning has not changed the regulations. ODE published the [Assessment FAQ](#) that provides particular advice on how to adhere to this.

Q: Could you please repeat the March date for the opening of the testing window. Also, please repeat the Opt Out date?

- The Summative Test Window Opens March 4th, the 30 Day Notice Opt-out date is February 2nd.

Q: What happens when a group of students in a classroom situation become quarantined and are not able to complete assessments they have started, assuming they are not waived?

- This question assumes general, in-person summative testing. If it becomes clear that Oregon will need to administer all summative assessments as in prior years, we'll develop appropriate guidance at that time.

### ELPA

Q: Are students with English learner status being asked to test on-site (i.e. for the ELPA Summative) when other populations are not? This seems like an equity concern, even if parents can request an exemption.

- ODE is not requiring universal on-site testing. Parents will not need to request an exemption; districts will offer a testing opportunity and parents will accept or decline.

Q: Can students exit EL status via the unique screening opportunity?

- Yes, scoring proficient during a unique screening opportunity is functionally identical to exiting.

Q: Is there a separate opt out form for the ELPA or is it the same as the general opt out

form?

- "Opt-out" has a legislatively specific meaning that applies only to ELA and Math assessments. As mentioned earlier, 2020-21 will differ from past testing schools years in that parents have the right to decline ELPA Summative testing for any reason. They do not need to sign a form or provide a reason, but districts are encouraged to document this decision in the student's permanent file to preserve the student's ELP testing history.

UPDATE: The US Department of Education specified on 12/10 that remotely identified English learners, also known as students with "presumptive" EL status, are eligible to participate in yearly ELP summative testing, even if their EL status has not previously been confirmed via the state's adopted screening instrument. This constitutes a change to policy previously stated on the DTC webinar.

### **Waiver**

Q: Will the waiver be reviewed by Trump's Ed Secretary or Biden's?

- It depends on when it is submitted. If any state submits prior to the transition January 20<sup>th</sup>, those would likely be reviewed by the current education administration. Whereas requested after January 20<sup>th</sup> would be viewed by the President Elect's administration. That will impact our timeline and put pressure to communicate swifter with you.

Q: What if your private schools closed because of COVID so you couldn't test the students.

- If the private school is testing because they are satisfying a federal requirement, then the same rules would apply as to any other required ELPA testing opportunity (for example, the students would be eligible for unique screening). If the private school is "opting in" to testing that is not federally required, then there would be no unique screening opportunity and the students would simply not test.

### **Survey**

Q: What is the OSAS student survey?

- In ODEs planning and development of the state summative assessment and accountability waiver we felt obligated, of course, to maintain the principles of equity that are reinforced by ESSA. Even though we realized and named the conditions for standardized summative assessment were not in place in Oregon, and likely would not be in place in the spring, it should be privileged for other purposes, such as instruction. We acknowledged that other aspects of our assessment and accountability system could be acted upon. What might a strategic assessment and accountability waiver look like and how could continue to honor our commitment to equity without having summative assessment results available? The student survey came to light during that discussion and time. We've reviewed the literature related to the factors that are most highly coordinated and predictive of academic achievement. We want to position the system to honor and acknowledge student voice and at the same time we had a

unique opportunity to stand on the shoulders of those who had already developed a number of items that actually speak to the constructs that we were most interested in looking at. Given the short timeline that we had, that was certainly part of the discussion, we developed a plan that incorporates existing items from national and international assessments (like NAEP and PISA). If you would like additional information about the survey it is substantially documented in the full waiver.

Q: Will districts get results to survey? Will there be any communication about this?

The 2021 administration is a pilot administration. The only results shared publicly will be state-level, summary statistics that are included in an overall report that ODE will generate. We will work with the AAC and ARAC to determine how to engage districts with advanced, embargoed previews of their district and school-level data in order to appropriately position districts for the first operational administration of the survey in the spring of 2022. Historically, ODE has protected student-level responses from survey reporting in order to protect student privacy and interests. This precedent is important and defensible and our plan is to maintain that practice for those reasons.

Q: What is the purpose of the survey?

- The intent and purpose of the survey is to help educators and the public to interpret outcomes that are being generated from our state summative assessments. So that's why we're looking at student's access to educational and learning resources. That can include questions like "does the student have access to the internet?", "does the student have access to technology?". Really kind of nuts and bolts questions like that along with opportunity to learn questions which get more at the student's exposure to grade level expectations, quality of instruction, quality of curriculum, whether students see themselves in the curriculum and those kinds of questions. Self-efficacy and beliefs are important as well. Understanding the importance of the content and whether they see or reach and knowing beyond what they are seeing in the classroom. Really trying to look more holistically at the information we're gathering from students to better understand the factors districts can control to help change student outcomes.

Q: How much time would survey add to assessments?

- ODE is not finished with the development of the survey and the amount of time it takes is actually dependent on the grade level as you might expect. It's not just the number of items, but student's facility in responding to items is part of that discussion. We want the questions and reliability to drive that. This will be part of our communication to help District Test Coordinators prepare for the student survey.

Q: So will the survey occur even if ELA, math & science assessments are waived?

- Yes, what ODE's waiver tried to make clear is that ODE is not going to take this year off and do nothing to improve our approach to assessment and

accountability. What we proposed to do instead is develop and implement a student survey that can help us have a more comprehensive, efficient, informative accountability system in the future.

Q: How is information on this survey being communicated to students?

- ODE will be developing a communication toolkit for DTCs to use to prepare students, families, peers and communities around the student survey. The survey is not secure so that is one of the reasons it is feasible to do this coming year. Test security is not a concern because it is a survey and not an assessment. This can be delivered remotely or in person context. We're also looking at how to reach students who don't have access to internet and reach them by telephone or paper. So that's the part that we'll get to as part of phase 2. The phone and paper versions will require further discussion and review.

Q: Will the survey be a requirement? And will we need to be accountable for a completion rate?

- At present, the only accountability arm of the student survey will be in the nature of public reporting associated with it after the 2022 administration. We will make information like completion rates available but there won't be accountability expectations associated with it other than those community accountability considerations that are associated with any form of public reporting that you are aware of.

Q: And, will this survey happen on a yearly basis?

- Yes, it will be annual.

Q: Survey - will training be required for teachers administering the survey if waiver is granted?

- The design is quite simple. All of the accessibility supports students know will be available through the test delivery system. The system is simple enough that it should not require face to face training. We'll be providing clear guidance on the training requirements that may be needed to administer the survey. The survey is not secure so that should alleviate the burden. It's more to make sure that student information and identification stays private.

Q: Will there be a survey opt-out for parents who don't want their students to take it? Every year we have parents who don't want their children to participate in our district-level surveys and I figure they would treat a state survey the same way.

- The opt-out expectations that we have in Oregon right now are specific to our English Language Arts and Math Summative Assessments. The student survey certainly will be one that is subject to parent agency and authority but it would come within the classroom activities that parents do not want their child to participate in as an exemption request. It will be eligible for the parent exemption process and subject to the same restrictions in terms of rationale (due to religion or disability).

Q: Will individual district or school results be published?

- That is a question that I'll reach out to the Assessment Advisory Committee to inquire about first. We'll probably connect with other DTC groups such as ROAC to get feedback on this question as well. Our intent is not to surprise anyone or shock the system. The current learning that we have would be to publish only state results from the 2021 pilot. As mentioned above, there is good reason not to publish district level data from 2021 and we do not plan to make student-level data available at any point in the process.

Q: Will there be a separate role for survey TAs?

- ODE will try to address that with the path that has the lowest burden and decreases the impact in terms of training and preparation.

Q: You have said you do not have approx. duration time for the survey however I am wondering if this is something in the line of a 3 hour survey or a 15 min survey? I think a nod towards an approx. idea of time would be helpful.

- The nod is definitely important to decrease your stress. These will be surveys that are in the 10-15 minute range for elementary and in the 20-25 minute range for high school. These will be small, swift, efficient surveys just to give you an approximate time.