

# UNDERSTANDING AND PREPARING FOR THE NEW MORE RIGOROUS OSAS SCIENCE ASSESSMENT



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## THE 2019-2020 OSAS SCIENCE:

- Is available for students from January 7 to June 5, 2020
- Is made up of items aligned to the 2014 Oregon Science Standards (NGSS).
- Grade 5 assessment contains items aligned to Grade 3, 4, and 5 standards
- Grade 8 assessment contains items aligned to Grade 6, 7, and 8 standards
- Grade 11 assessment contains items aligned to all high school science standards.
- Items are organized by Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) in Physical Science, Life Science and Earth Science. (Engineering is incorporated across all DCIs)
  - The number of test items in each of these categories is called the Test Blueprint.
  - Each test item is three-dimensional, representing (1) a Disciplinary Core Idea, (2) Science and Engineering Practices (for example, Asking Questions), and (3) Crosscutting Concepts (for example, Energy and Matter).
  - Student responses to the assessment items make up their OSAS Science score.

## THE BAR HAS BEEN RAISED IN THE NEW OREGON SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

The Oregon Science Standards also known as the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) serve as a set of expectations for what all students should know and be able to do at each grade level. These standards are more rigorous than those previously adopted in the state of Oregon. Oregon Department of Education (ODE) encourages you to review OSAS Science Assessment Sample Tests and Sample Test Resources on the [OSAS Portal](#). Districts will need to communicate this change to teachers and families.

The 2014 [Oregon Science Standards](#) encourage the application of science and engineering content, processes, and connections to real world questions and problems. This next level requirement better prepares students for the challenges they'll face in school, the workplace and life.

ODE's mission is to foster equity and excellence for every learner through collaboration with educators, partners, and communities. The need for high-quality science education is essential. Students need the kind of preparation that not only supports their learning now, but also gives them the tools and skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly and continuously changing world.

As scores are reported, it is important to draw attention to the change in the rigor and acknowledge that the bar has been raised.

### Meeting The Challenge

A reduction in the number of proficient students is not an indicator of reduced performance, but rather an indicator in the need to further shift instructional practices, improve curriculum, and/or remove systemic barriers to meet the rigor of the new standards.

## ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

The assessment will be given to students in grades 5, 8, and 11. Students ready to take the science assessment in high school before grade 11 are allowed to take it early, but they will be required to take it in 11th grade if they do not achieve a proficient score when taking it early. A student is not required to receive a proficient score on OSAS Science to receive a diploma.

Once the student begins the OSAS Science Assessment, they have 45-calendar days to finish the test. After 45 days the student's test expires.

## SCIENCE SCORE REPORTING:

- Scores will not be immediately available upon completion of the test.
- Individual Student Reports will contain only an overall score. There will not be any subscores available for students for the 2018-19 or 2019-20 test administrations.
- Achievement Level Descriptors may be viewed on the ODE Assessment website.
- Future subscore categories including claims and targets may change at some point beyond the 2019-2020 school year.
- Unofficial group subscores can be found on the [Oregon Reporting System \(ORS\) portal](#).
  - 3-Dimensional Physical Science, 3-Dimensional Earth Science, and 3-Dimensional Life Science group scores are available on ORS. Disciplinary Core Ideas, Science and Engineering Practices, and Cross-Cutting concepts are woven together in the items within the assessment and are not reported separately at this time.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### WHERE CAN I FIND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING MATERIALS TO ASSIST MY DISTRICT OR SCHOOL WITH ALIGNING INSTRUCTION TO STANDARDS?

- ODE provides regional professional development for science at ESD's upon request. Please contact us for more information about upcoming events or to request professional development support in your region.
- The ODE [Science Assessment webpage](#) contains professional learning materials specific to the OSAS Science Assessment.
- [STEMteachingtools.org](#) has high quality, customizable, and free professional development resource materials.

### IS THERE A SCIENCE INTERIM ASSESSMENT BANK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE?

- ODE is currently working with our state assessment vendor AIR to have a science interim assessment system available for purchase at the district level. This system contains selectable items for classroom use in the OSAS testing platform.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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