

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S SCIENCE TEST: GRADE 5, GRADE 8, AND HIGH SCHOOL



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THE 2019-2020 SCIENCE ASSESSMENT:

- For the 2020 administration, your district will select testing dates between January 7 and June 5, 2020.
- Students are required* to take the OSAS Science Assessment in 5th, 8th, and 11th grades. (HS students may test early in 9th or 10th grade**)
- The test is made up of test questions aligned to [the 2014 Oregon Science Standards](#).
- The test includes Physical Science, Life Science, Earth Science, Science and Engineering Practices and Cross-cutting scientific concepts.
- 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).
- Students are not required to demonstrate proficiency in science as a graduation requirement.

OREGON'S STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) mission is to foster equity and excellence for every learner through collaboration with educators, partners, and communities. ODE along with your student's teacher(s), principal, school district, and local school board, help ensure that your child has every advantage to reach their full potential.

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.

Your child's school has been preparing and transitioning science instruction to support the more rigorous [Oregon Science Standards](#)

since 2014. These standards are also called [the Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\)](#) and serve as a set of expectations for what all students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

To measure your student's progress toward these standards, the state of Oregon tests students using [Oregon's Statewide Assessment System \(OSAS\)](#) Science Assessment. This new assessment is more challenging than previous science assessments and requires students to engage with tasks that are based in real-life scientific scenarios. It is possible that your student may not perform as well on the OSAS Science Assessment as they performed on the previous OAKS Science Assessment.

OSAS SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

*Parents may request that their student be exempted from the OSAS Science Assessment based on disability or religion.

**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.

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

Individual student test scores shall be provided to parents through their student's school district.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS:

MY STUDENT IS A NATIVE SPANISH SPEAKER. IS THE OSAS SCIENCE ASSESSMENT AVAILABLE IN SPANISH?

Yes, items have been translated to Spanish for Oregon students. Your student's school can enable Spanish presentation for your student. Once enabled, your student will then have the Spanish Language Toggle feature on each OSAS Science online screen or page. The Language Toggle allows the student to switch between Spanish and English. The student may answer in either language. Their responses are saved to both languages automatically.

HOW CAN I BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT MY STUDENT WILL BE TESTED ON?

You and others can take an [OSAS Science Sample Test](#). The sample tests can be found here: osasportal.org. Here are step-by-step instructions to access the sample test:

- (1) Click Sign In, (2) Select a Grade: 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12,
- (3) Scroll down and then Click on Start Science Sample Test,
- (4) Click on "Select" to accept the general settings, or change any setting in the lists of Universal Tools, or Embedded Designated Supports (including selecting Presentation as Spanish or Text-to-Speech, for example).
- (5) Click the Audio/Video Checks, and then click the "I could play the video and sound" button, (6) Click "Continue," and (7) Click "Begin Test Now."

WHAT ONLINE TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE TO MY CHILD WHILE TAKING OSAS SCIENCE?

All students have access to Universal Tools, which are within the online OSAS Science testing system. These universal tools include a highlighter, line reader, strikethrough, expandable stimuli, and expandable items. In addition, the student can change the default mouse pointer to one that is large or extra-large, or a different color (green, red, yellow, or white).

MY STUDENT HAS SPECIAL NEEDS, WILL THEY TAKE OSAS SCIENCE OR THE ALTERNATE (EXTENDED) ASSESSMENT?

The decision to administer Oregon's Alternate (Extended) Assessment can only be made by the student's IEP team, including the parent. Contact your student's teacher to discuss your child's testing options. It may be helpful to know that some students access the OSAS Science Assessment through Designated Supports or Accommodations that are similar to support they receive regularly in class.

MAY MY CHILD USE SCRATCH PAPER?

Yes, scratch paper is available to all students taking the OSAS Science. Scratch paper used for notes on the science test can be retained and securely stored between test sessions.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Your child's school is the best first contact for more information about the OSAS Science Assessment.

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