

Summary Key & Concepts

Parent Learning Session

Where can I go to find out more about assessment in my child's classroom?

Summary: This session helps parents understand who to contact for answers to questions about why, when, and how assessments are chosen and administered to their children. The session emphasizes the importance of parents reaching out to and partnering with teachers as a critical first-step and ongoing approach in supporting their children's learning.

Key Concepts:

- 1. Parents should always contact their child's educators when they have questions about assessment.**
 - **Parents should first contact their child's *General Classroom Teacher* with assessment-related questions.** Teachers can detail when different assessments are given, explain what children's scores and performances mean, and describe the ways in which they, and the school, district, and state use assessment results to guide decision-making and support learning.
 - **If the teacher cannot answer a parent's question(s) they can put them in contact with the *Principal, the School Test Coordinator and/or the District Test Coordinator*.** These individuals help select, organize, and schedule the different school-wide and district-wide assessments, and can help parents get the information they need, including through the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) if necessary.
 - **For children experiencing a disability and who have an Individual Education Program (or IEP), teachers can connect parents with their *Case Manager*.** This person, and perhaps others on the IEP Team, can explain instructional and assessment-related details regarding the IEP.
 - **For students who are English Language Learners (ELL; or sometimes referred to as English Learners [EL]), teachers can connect parents with the *English Language Development teacher*.** This person can explain why, when, and how the child is being assessed for English language proficiency, along with any language support services the child is receiving.
- 2. While the State of Oregon, through the Oregon Department of Education, does make assessment decisions, including many of the guiding decisions around statewide summative assessment testing, most assessment-related decisions, such as which assessments are given and when, are made by the school and/or district.** School and districts, for example, typically make decisions around the nature and implementation of formative assessment practices, interim assessments, classroom summative assessments, fundamental skills assessment, as well as informal and formal diagnostic testing for in-depth skills development inventory and formal evaluation for special education eligibility, respectively.
- 3. There are other independent sources of information (outside of school, district and state resources) on assessment-related topics—including the internet and parent support and advocacy groups—that might be helpful to parents when they have questions.** Children's teachers are an important place to start when wanting to know if any particular resource is appropriate and of high-quality in support children's learning needs.