



# **Elevating Student Voice Communications Toolkit**

Tools for School and District Leaders to better  
understand Oregon's Student Educational  
Equity Development (SEED) Survey

Updated for the  
**2026-2027 School Year**

## Communications Toolkit September 2026

Dear Education Partners,

This communications toolkit is designed to support school staff, district leaders, students and families to better understand the Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey. The materials in the toolkit include:

- Annual Notice; includes key messages
- Parent/Guardian Rights for survey participation
- Parent/Guardian overview
- 1-page flyer for students
- Resources for educators
- Frequently Asked Questions

One of the questions ODE hears most frequently is about how results from the SEED Survey are used. Here are the four main intended uses of the SEED Survey:

**1**

**Honor the importance and necessity of incorporating student voices into the continuous improvement process for Oregon's public education systems**

**2**

**Provide Oregon districts with actionable data regarding investments and quality pedagogy that can be used to increase student group outcomes such as academic achievement, graduation rates, and post-secondary success**

**3**

**Develop promising practices using the SEED Survey data independently and in combination with state and local data**

**4**

**Expand reporting to include information in addition to test scores that can help districts tell a more complete story about how they are serving students**

We invite you to make use of these resources to initiate conversations and communication with staff, students, families and your school board. Thank you for elevating the voices of Oregon's students.

Please contact the **ODE SEED Survey team** with any questions or concerns.



## ELEVATING STUDENT VOICE

The Oregon Department of Education is deeply committed to helping each and every student learn, grow, and thrive. ODE is also committed to providing opportunities for feedback and input to continuously improve education experiences for all students in Oregon. The Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey will help ODE gather information about the educational experiences of students in Oregon. This information will help ODE to develop appropriate resources and supports for districts in Oregon, and better target those resources where they are most needed. SEED Survey data may also help districts develop a fuller picture of their local contexts and make strategic modifications to curriculum, instruction, and related academic supports that they offer students.

## THE SEED SURVEY...

- **...provides opportunity to hear directly from students.** The SEED Survey gives students the opportunity to voice their experiences in Oregon's education system.
- **...is designed to capture students' sense of belonging and experiences at school.** The survey asks students about their access to learning resources, learning opportunities, self-efficacy beliefs, and sense of belonging.
- **...is available to meet the needs of all students.** Students have access to the same accessibility supports that are available to them on statewide assessments. An Alternate SEED Survey is also available, designed for students experiencing significant cognitive disabilities.
- **...takes 10-20 minutes to complete.** The SEED survey is brief and contains multiple choice questions for grades 3-11 and additional open-ended questions for grades 6-11.
- **...is confidential.** Student responses on the survey are confidential unless a student response indicates potential harm to the student or to others. When a student response is flagged as a potential crisis alert, the student's response is shared with local school staff to ensure student safety. Except in the case of a potential crisis alert, individual student responses on the SEED Survey are not shared at the school, district, and state levels. SEED Survey responses are securely stored and viewed only by a few staff members at ODE for the purposes of data analysis and preparing the survey data to be reported in ways that protect student confidentiality.

## DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

Oregon law (House Bill 2656) requires each school district to make the SEED Survey available to students in grades 3-11. Parents or guardians may decline, either verbally or in writing, to have their student participate in the SEED Survey. Schools will provide parents with notice of administration and the process for declining participation at least 5 days prior to administering the SEED Survey. Students may also decline, at any time, either verbally or in writing to participate. Students may also decline to answer individual questions on the SEED survey.

## STATEWIDE ADMINISTRATION WINDOW

The SEED Survey will be administered within the statewide window indicated below. Schools and districts will determine specific administration days and times.

### Grades 3-11

02/02/2027 — 06/11/2027

## STAY INFORMED

For additional information and to review the SEED Survey, visit the Oregon Department of Education's [SEED Survey webpage](#) or scan the QR code to the right. School and district staff can answer additional questions.

SCAN ME



## PARENT/GUARDIAN RIGHTS FOR SURVEY PARTICIPATION

Oregon law (ORS 329.078) permits parents or guardians to decline, either verbally or in writing, to have their student participate in the SEED Survey. The school shall provide any student who is excused from participating in the SEED Survey with supervised study time (or another learning activity) while other students are completing the survey.

- If you would like your student to participate in the SEED Survey, **no further action is required.**
- If you do not want your student to participate in the SEED Survey, **please complete one of the options below.**
  - To help your student's school efficiently plan, please submit this form or contact your student's school at least one day prior to the first day of survey administration.

### OPTION 1

To decline in writing, please complete this section and return this form to your student's school.

Student's Legal Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Legal First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Enrolled Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's School: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that by signing this form I am declining to have my student participate in the SEED Survey for the current academic year only.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### OPTION 2

To decline verbally, please contact your student's school by phone or visit in-person. Be prepared to provide the following information:

- Student's legal name (first and last)
- Student's enrolled grade
- Your name (as the student's parent/guardian)
- Verbal confirmation that you would like to decline participation in the SEED Survey for your student

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S STUDENT EDUCATIONAL EQUITY DEVELOPMENT (SEED) SURVEY: GRADES 3 – 11



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

Oregon achieves . . . together!



## ❖ School districts are required to offer the Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey in Grades 3rd – 11th.

- Your child's school will select surveying dates between:

- February – June

## ❖ The survey is made up of survey items aligned to the [standards and instruction of Oregon](#). Students are asked about their learning experiences in schools.

## ❖ The SEED Survey invites students to share their experiences in:

- **Opportunity to Learn and Self-Efficacy:** in Language Arts, Math, and Science, as well as their opportunity to learn about Tribes in Oregon.
- **Well-Rounded Education and Extracurricular Engagement:** access to classes and activities from a variety of disciplines and areas of interests.
- **Career Connected Learning and Post-Graduation Planning:** opportunities to explore and prepare for life after graduation.

## ❖ Oregon provides [resources](#) for families and students to learn more about the SEED Survey.

## OREGON STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM STUDENT EDUCATIONAL EQUITY DEVELOPMENT (SEED) SURVEY

The mission of the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is to foster equity and excellence for every learner through collaboration with educators, partners, and communities. ODE, along with your district and local school board, helps ensure your child has every advantage to reach their full potential.

The [Student Educational Equity Development \(SEED\) Survey](#) is administered annually to students in grades 3-11 across Oregon. **The survey centers student voice by asking students to share about their schooling experiences.** This information helps ODE better identify students' needs and informs the development of resources designed to improve students' social, emotional, and academic wellbeing.

Prior to the SEED Survey, the main types of student data ODE collected were administrative (e.g., attendance, graduation) or were in the form of end-of-year test scores (e.g., English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science). **While useful, the existing data did not capture the context of students' experiences, such as their sense of belonging or the opportunities available to them at school.** Without this information, it was difficult to identify which levers education systems could focus their efforts on in order to improve student outcomes. ODE developed the SEED Survey in 2020 and pilot tested it during 2021, 2022, and 2023. The 2024-25 school year was the first fully operational year for the SEED Survey.

*The SEED Survey is only one way that student voice is uplifted in Oregon. Most districts draw from students' perspectives through local survey instruments, student participation in school and district committees, class meetings, and other school activities. The Oregon Health Authority offers a student survey that asks students about their health and well-being. The Student Voice Summer Survey captures students' experiences in summer programs funded by ODE Summer Learning Grants.*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### IS THE SEED SURVEY REQUIRED?

[ORS 329.078](#) requires districts to make available "a survey administered by the Department of Education that is designed to assist the department in gathering information about the education experiences of students in this state, including information on learning, opportunities to learn and school culture and climate." It is not required that students participate. Students and/or their families/guardians can decline to participate, verbally or in writing. [OAR 581.022.2100](#) requires that district make the survey available in ways that align with the administration guidance provided in the SEED Survey Administration Manual.

### HOW IS THE SEED SURVEY RELATED TO STATEWIDE TESTING?

Unlike state testing, which measures what students know and can do, the SEED Survey measures what students experience during their education in Oregon. The SEED Survey fills in some of the gaps in our understanding by capturing students' perceptions and experiences.

### WHAT EXACTLY IS ASKED ON THE SEED SURVEY?

The SEED Survey collects student perceptions in four core domains: Access to Learning Resources, Opportunity to Learn, Self-Efficacy Beliefs, and Sense of Belonging. Additional domains are covered on some of the grade-level surveys. For more details about the survey, see the [SEED Survey webpage](#), which has resources on the domain definitions, sample items, and which domains are covered at which grades.

### WHEN DO STUDENTS TAKE THE SEED SURVEY?

Students take the survey during the school day.

### HOW ARE THE SEED SURVEY RESULTS USED?

Survey results are used to (1) honor the importance and necessity of incorporating student voices into the continuous improvement process for Oregon's public education systems; (2) provide Oregon districts with actionable data regarding investments and quality pedagogy that can be used to increase student group outcomes such as academic achievement, graduation rates, and post-secondary success; (3) develop promising practices using the SEED Survey data independently and in combination with state and local data; and (4) expand reporting to include information in addition to test scores that can help districts tell a more complete story about how they are serving students.

### WHAT SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO MY CHILD WHILE TAKING THE SEED SURVEY?

All students have access to numerous tools and accessibility features to use on the SEED Survey. Some "Universal Tools" include a highlighter, line reader, strike-through text to eliminate answer choices, and scratch paper. The definitions of each tool and a full list of available Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations can be found in the [Oregon Accessibility Manual](#). Please talk with your child's educator about what supports may be helpful for your child during survey administration.

### WHEN WILL SURVEY RESULTS BE AVAILABLE?

ODE will publicly release statewide survey results approximately in October during the next academic school year. This allows ODE to validate all survey results with districts. The survey results are posted on the [SEED Survey webpage](#). Results are available at the state, ESD boundary, and district levels.

## CONTACT INFORMATION



Contact your child's school for more information about when the SEED Survey will be administered.


Contact ODE for more information about the SEED Survey:  
[ODE.SEEDSurveys@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:ODE.SEEDSurveys@ode.oregon.gov)



## Amplifying Student Voice

Student voice matters. When students have the opportunity to think, reflect and share their experiences in school, the education community - including teachers and school staff, state policymakers and communities - are better informed to make decisions and create the conditions for all students to learn, grow and thrive. The data from the SEED Survey is collected by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to help inform a holistic and culturally responsive view of students' experience in Oregon public schools.



**Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey** 

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

Education leaders in Oregon would like to know more about your school year. Your answers will help schools in Oregon.

Your answers will be private. In most cases, your school, parent, or guardian will not see your answers.

Read each question carefully. Choose the answers that are true for you. There are no right or wrong answers. If you cannot find the perfect answer, it is okay to pick the best one. You can skip any question.

Use the tools in the survey to help you. If you have questions, ask your teacher.

Please select one of the following, then click Next:

I will take this survey. Go to the first question.


I will not take this survey. Go to the submit page.

**Access to Learning Resources**

The next questions will ask you about things that could help you with your school work. These may be things in your home, community, or school. Please read each question carefully. Choose the answers that are true for you.

1. Are these things available to help you with your school work?

	No, not available	Yes, sometimes available	Yes, always available	Skip question
Internet connection or Wi-Fi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Desktop computer or laptop (such as Chromebook or similar)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tablet (such as iPad or similar)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smartphone (such as iPhone or similar)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tools to help you talk with your teacher and other students (such as headphones, microphones or similar)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## About the SEED Survey

- An annual survey.
- For students in grades 3-11.
- Takes 10 - 20 minutes.

## When Do Students Take the Survey?

- February through June.

## Supports

- Available in 8 languages as well as braille.
- Accessibility options (ex: screen readers)
- Alt SEED Survey for students experiencing significant cognitive disabilities.





## What are Students Asked to Share?

### Four Core Domains (asked on all surveys)

- **Access to Learning Resources** - Students' access to technology and other educational tools, materials, or supports.
- **Opportunity to Learn** - Students' learning experiences within the classroom in relation to specific content areas.
- **Self-Efficacy Beliefs** - Students' sense of confidence in their academic skills and abilities.
- **Sense of Belonging** - How students feel welcomed, valued, cared for, and respected at school.

### Additional Domains (asked on some grade level surveys)

- **Well-Rounded Education** - Students' access to classes from a wide variety of disciplines as well as classes that are interesting to them.
- **Career Connected Learning** - How students have been taught about future careers and the opportunities they have been given to explore and prepare for their future career.
- **Extracurricular Engagement** - Students' participation in extracurriculars and the extracurricular opportunities available to them.
- **Post-Graduation Planning** - Students' educational, career, and other life plans after graduation.



Image: <https://fairgaze.com/interested-article/ensuring-equitable-access-to-education.htm>





# ELEVATING STUDENT VOICE

Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey

## Resources for Educators

- The [ODE SEED Survey web page](#) contains:
  - A full copy of the SEED Survey in English, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Arabic for grades 3-11
  - A full copy of the Alt-SEED Survey for grades 3- 11
  - Parent/Guardian Annual Notice and Declining Participation template in 15 languages
  - Practice SEED Survey (especially recommended for elementary classrooms)
  - Survey Results from previous years
  - Research Briefs on Sense of Belonging, Extra-Curricular Engagement, and Student Responses to Open-Ended Question
  - Resources for accessing, understanding, and analyzing SEED Survey data
- [SEED Survey Administration Manual](#) for survey administration. This guide supports District Testing Coordinators (DTCs), School Test Coordinators (STCs), and Test Administrators (TAs) who manage in-person and remote sessions for students participating in the Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey. The guide assumes familiarity with the Oregon Statewide Assessment System (OSAS) test delivery system.
- Alt-SEED administration is found on the same training and proficiency platform that houses our [Oregon Extended Assessment](#), and subsequently is administered by an Assessor that is familiar with the student's instruction, strengths and individual needs.





# ELEVATING STUDENT VOICE

Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: Is the SEED Survey required?**

A: [ORS 329.078](#) requires districts to make available "a survey administered by the Department of Education that is designed to assist the department in gathering information about the education experiences of students in this state, including information on learning, opportunities to learn and school culture and climate." NOTE: It is not required that students participate. Students and/or their families/guardians can decline to participate, verbally or in writing. [OAR 581.022.2100](#) requires that district make the survey available in ways that align with the administration guidance provided in the SEED Survey Administration Manual.

### **Q: How is the SEED Survey related to statewide testing?**

A: Unlike state testing, which measures what students know and can do, the SEED Survey measures what students experience during their education in Oregon. The SEED Survey fills in some of the gaps in our understanding by capturing students' perceptions and experiences.

### **Q: What exactly is asked on the SEED Survey?**

A: The SEED Survey collects student perceptions in four core domains: Access to Learning Resources, Opportunity to Learn, Self-Efficacy Beliefs, and Sense of Belonging. Additional domains are covered on some of the grade-level surveys. For more details about the survey, see [Domains and Sample Items](#), a resource that gives an overview of the domain definitions, sample items, and which domains are covered at which grades.

### **Q: How are SEED Survey results used?**

A: Survey results are used to (1) honor the importance and necessity of incorporating student voices into the continuous improvement process for Oregon's public education systems; (2) provide Oregon districts with actionable data regarding investments and quality pedagogy that can be used to increase student group outcomes such as academic achievement, graduation rates, and post-secondary success; (3) develop promising practices using the SEED Survey data independently and in combination with state and local data; and (4) expand reporting to include information in addition to test scores that can help districts tell a more complete story about how they are serving students.



# ELEVATING STUDENT VOICE

## Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey

**Q: What kind of practice might students need for the SEED Survey?**

A: The SEED survey uses the same interface as state testing. Students who are new to the testing interface may wish to practice navigation or use of embedded tools and supports through one of the OSAS Assessment sample and training tests. For students in grades 3-5, ODE suggests using the practice survey found on the [SEED webpage](#) before administering the survey.

**Q: How is the SEED Survey accessed by students?**

A: Students must have the opportunity to take the SEED Survey during school hours when no other activities are planned (ex: the survey cannot be administered during lunch or recess). Students can complete the SEED Survey using a secure testing browser or a non-secure browser. Survey administrators have the option of assigning the SEED Survey in a Learning Management System (LMS) such as Canvas. If a student does not complete the survey during the designated time period, they can access it at another time, during the open testing window (February 3-June 12, 2026).

**Q: Since survey items are non-secure, can teachers or parents help students with the answers?**

A: Some SEED Survey items ask students to evaluate their school experience, so it is important that students are provided with the privacy and independence needed to allow for personalized responses. While it is inappropriate to try to influence student responses, it is permissible to help students better understand the question. For example, teachers or parents may explain what a word means or what the question is asking. An [FAQ resource for students](#) is available on the SEED webpage.

**Q: Can the SEED Survey be paused? What happens to partially completed surveys when the survey window closes?**

A: Yes, the SEED Survey can be paused, and student progress will be saved. Students can return to the survey either in school or out of school. Since there is no scoring or accountability measure attached to the survey, answers from partially completed surveys will be included in the data.

**Q: In which languages will the SEED Survey be offered?**

A: English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Arabic.