



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
2025-2026 School Year



Communications Toolkit

September 2025

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
- 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

02/03/2026 — 06/12/2026

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

ELEVATING STUDENT VOICE

We want to hear what you think about your school, classes, and teachers! Use your voice to help the Oregon Department of Education improve schools.



TAKE THE STUDENT EDUCATIONAL EQUITY DEVELOPMENT (SEED) SURVEY



WHO CAN TAKE IT?

You can take the survey if you are a student in Oregon who is in 3rd – 11th grade



HOW CAN I TAKE IT?

Someone at your school will give you an opportunity to take the survey between February 3rd and June 12th, 2026



WHY SHOULD I TAKE IT?

We will use this survey to
1) share your stories
2) identify problems
3) celebrate successes



HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

It only takes 15 minutes to complete!

Scan the QR code to learn more!



**YOUR
OPINION
MATTERS**





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.