

## DTC Webinar: Q&A Session – April 14, 2021

### Opt-in and Opt-Out

1. **Q:** Can we please discuss districts deciding to follow an opt in process and also district who aren't conducting state testing at all?

**A:** The violation of Division 22 is the concern, and ODE does not expect any fiscal consequences that are connected to student participation this year. See Question #8 in the online FAQ, posted and updated on our [Assessment Team Communication webpage](#), for a formal response.

2. **Q:** I thought "opt in" and simply not testing were not allowed?

**A:** See the answer for #1 here.

3. **Q:** So a parent can opt their child out of all testing for any reason?

**A:** That can be true. This year for parents who have child in CDL it is more of an occurrence. Districts just need to be making sure they are documenting accordingly.

4. **Q:** What was the purpose of the original opt out form in the early stages of testing?

**A:** There were many purposes. The opt-out form came into being concurrently with Smarter Balanced; there was some public concern about Smarter Balanced and wanting to make sure parents could opt out. Statute required it, and was able to document the impact. The Legislature wanted to understand the opt-out rate related to the statute due to concerns about federal Title 1A funding.

5. **Q:** Just want to confirm that a family that fills out a survey saying they do not want their student to test, but doesn't fill out the official opt-out form, what code would we use for them?

**A:** Codes are in the Test Administration Manual – if there is no code in the TAM that fits the specific condition, then there is no code required.

6. **Q:** For accountability, there is an expectation that we try, but no expectation that we succeed?

**A:** A good-faith effort is expected, but due to the nature of the pandemic situation, there will be no expectation.

## CDL

1. **Q:** What about the science assessment? Do students on CDL still have to have religion or disability to opt out?

**A:** “Opt-out” is a legislatively created process that applies only to ELA and Math. Parents who wish to avail themselves of Parent Requests for Exemption, as detailed in Section 5.3 of the Test Administration Manual, will need to provide a religious or disability reason for the exemption request (as well as a suggested replacement learning activity). Parents who do not wish to request exemption for reasons of religions or disability may “vote with their feet” and keep students at home. Note that the foregoing is a statement of fact and doesn’t represent ODE’s policy or position.

2. **Q:** Will ODE need to develop new cut scores since these are new test blue prints?

**A:** The test blueprints that are currently in place for ELA and math are reduced but in a weighted fashion, so they still can be compared to the same scale and cut scores.

3. **Q:** If we are a 4-day week and offer testing to CDL students on a Friday, are we REQUIRED to provide transportation for them?

**A:** Yes, the district should be providing transportation for anything that requires instructional activity; participation in state summative assessments is part of the definition for instructional hours.

4. **Q:** Would it be acceptable for CDL parents to respond to a Google Form survey with Opt-Out / Exemption info, rather than to submit a paper form? It is often easier to get this info if parents can respond via cell phones.

**A:** Yes, districts can choose to create Google Forms for parents to fill out with Opt-Out/Exemption information as long as the content of the form is identical to the content of the official form. This allowance will be allowable not just this year, but also in the future.

**How various other districts are planning to manage testing CDL students/Opt-out [district responses]:**

1. Going to use the gym to keep students separated especially mixing cohort groups and minimize teacher/student who are not testing as a whole class.
2. Our district will be emailing all CDL families and offering testing to them and they have 2 weeks to respond. At that time, depending on numbers, we will coordinate depending on need. We have decided NOT to recommend/request Opting Out. We do NOT want to set a precedent for future years to have a much larger opt out group.
3. We are emailing parents and giving a two week window to reply. (For parent's to Opt-out)
4. [District] has a letter that principals can send out to invite CDL students to participate or to decline via the opt-out.
5. We are letting schools pick their test dates and then just communicating that if students want to participate, they can come in on those dates (with their cohort, of course).
6. We will be scheduling times for CDL students who wish to test. These times may represent times students are joining either their class session or a session with greater social distancing if requested.
7. In our district, we have far more CDL students at the secondary level, so the effort to have students come on site will be more problematic than at the K-6 level.
8. We are surveying online program parents to see if any want their students to come into a district building to test. If numbers are low, we'll do it once in a central location. If there are multiple kids attached to each resident school, we'll have that school set up a time and location.

### **State Board/Essential Skills/Legislature**

1. **Q:** Are you expecting the vote this week to waive graduation requirements for this year's juniors? My juniors are getting nervous, especially with the abbreviated SBAC.

**A:** The State Board has the topic for the consent agenda for their meeting on 4/15/2021 and we anticipate that they will approve our recommendation to suspend the Essential Skills requirements for students who graduate in 2021-22.

*N.B., on April 15, 2021, the State Board approved the suspension of the Kindergarten Assessment for 2021 as well as the Assessment of Essential Skills requirements for students who graduate in 2021-22. The suspension does not include the personalized learning requirements or the local performance assessment requirements.*

2. **Q:** Is there still a chance the legislature will axe the 10th grade college normed test for this fall? Or has that boat sailed this year?

**A:** There is currently no legislative action in progress that would change this statutory requirement. ODE is moving forward on the assumption that the requirement will remain in place.

3. **Q:** Are there any updates to the assessment student bill of rights ORS 329.479 and is it up for renewal this summer? Any thoughts on whether it will be renewed?

**A:** There is some legislative action around this ORS. That particular bill was set to sunset June 30<sup>th</sup>, and it is anticipated that legislature will renew that bill and the student bill of rights will stay in place for at least the next biennium.

4. **Q:** Is the information about the individual student data addressed in the parent communication? Many parents have said why test if I can't see how my child did.

**A:** Student results will be available through ODE's official data applications (such as Secure Assessment Reports). ISRs for Math, ELA and Science will *not* be available through ORS. However, ELPA scores will be available through ORS as in prior years.

5. **Q:** Will students see a score? Do the scores count?

**A:** No, student's scores will not be available for students. The USDE has relaxed accountability requirements this year, but scores will count for public reporting. ODE is still having internal discussions on what public reporting might be defensible this year. It is an expectation from the USDE within our amended assessment waiver that ODE makes state summative assessment results publicly available. ODE is discussing how to proceed in an equitable and defensible way, and will be engaging the Assessment Advisory Committee in the discussion as well before any data is publicly available.

6. **Q:** Has the amended waiver been officially accepted by USDE?

**A:** No, however ODE has met the conditional requirement that was placed on that waiver for public comment to the USDE – that was submitted 4/13/2021.

**Podcast link** (shared pursuant to the relevance of college admissions assessments above): [The Campus Tour Has Been Cancelled](#)