

Informal DTC Webinar: Q&A Session – December 6, 2017

General Questions

Q: Is it an impropriety to give staff report viewing options prior to training?

- In section 1.5 of the Test Administration Manual the user roles that explicitly require training as described by ODE are District Test Coordinators (including any district level users that are going to be assisting the DTC in their duties), School Test Coordinators, and Test Administrators or technicians that are going to be administering tests. Any individuals who may have access to secure student information or test materials who are not interacting with students during an active test session are not considered Test Administrators. While these individuals do need to sign a Non-TA Assurance of Test Security Form, there are no formal training requirements for these individuals.

Q: Is it possible to get the ORS guide updated before the testing window opens?

- The ORS guide will be updated when the new ORS for 2017-18 goes live January 9, 2018.

High School Assessment

Q: Is the continued use of Smarter Balanced a possibility, rather than other such as SAT and ACT?

- If the RFP process does not result in the award of a contract for a new high school assessment, then yes, it is possible that Smarter Balanced could remain as Oregon's statewide summative high school assessment.

Q: Is it safe to assume we will still be using Smarter Balanced in 2018-19, with the change, if any, to be implemented in the 2019-20 school year?

- If everything goes perfectly with the RFP process and any subsequent contract negotiations, and the successful contractor is able to address all of our requirements related to accessibility, peer review requirements, and costs it's possible that we could switch assessments as early as the 2018-19 school year. However, we will have to see how the process progresses, being mindful of the impact on the school districts in Oregon as well as students and teachers. We will also be requesting your input to ensure that we make those decisions together.

Q: There are different interpretations of "flexibility" under ESSA. One is that a state could offer options to an LEA. Is that the understanding Oregon is working off of in looking at alternate HS assessment or simply replacing, or both options?

- The intent of the RFP is to look at nationally recognized assessments such as the SAT or ACT as potential accountability tools that would replace the current high school assessment.

Q: Will stake-holders in districts get any inkling of the content of the RFP before it goes out? Will feedback be allowed?

- ODE's intent is to maintain as much transparency in the process as possible. Under state procurement rules, the content of the RFP itself will not be publicly released before the RFP is published to avoid giving any contractors an unfair advantage. However, ODE is interested in having stakeholder input during the RFP development process. If there is interest in participating in this process please contact Dan Farley at dan.farley@state.or.us.

Q: Could you clarify the statement about districts having the opportunity to opt to use a different assessment in relation to Accountability?

- The ESSA permits states to adopt criteria and a process to potentially approve districts to use an assessment other than the state's adopted high school assessment for accountability purposes. While Oregon's ESSA State Plan was worded to keep options open at the state level, the RFP process that ODE is currently pursuing to potentially switch high school assessments would still maintain a single statewide summative high school assessment that would be used by all districts for accountability purposes.

Q: If ACT were chosen, this would only replace the ELA and Math, not the OAKS Science test?

- Yes. The switch that ODE is exploring in Oregon's statewide summative high school assessment applies only to math and ELA, not science.