



# WHY STATE TESTING PARTICIPATION MATTERS TO FAMILIES

## How Does Taking State Tests Help My Child?

- It provides information about your child's learning toward English language arts, math, and science standards that you can review with other information from the school and ask questions if needed.
- It offers you an opportunity to check your child's progress toward meeting some of the skills needed for college and/or career.
- It provides you and other families in your community with information about how local schools are meeting the needs of all students.

## How Does Taking State Tests Help My Child's School?

- It provides critical information on how well all students in your child's school are doing on learning English language arts, math, and science standards, so the school can be equitably supported with assistance and resources.

## Did you know?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)—the federal law that governs general education in public schools across the country—was passed in 2015 and **requires** statewide testing in certain grades and subjects.

Because **all** students take the same test, schools and teachers can think about **all** students when they are planning.

Not too long ago, some students were **not included** in testing, such as students with disabilities and students who are federally identified as English learners.

- It helps identify system strengths and areas where growth is needed across time to evaluate curriculum, instruction, and other assessment practices.

## How Should My Child's Test Results Be Used?

- Remember that **the quality of a school is more than the sum of its test results**. Avoid judgments or decisions based solely on state test results.
- **Make state test results part of conversations about your child's learning**. Look for alignment with other information about your child's learning from their teacher and school. Ask questions if the information is not consistent.
- Decisions about opportunities for your child—such as challenging math pathways, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Talented and Gifted programs—should be based on **multiple sources of evidence**, not state test results alone.

## CONTACT



[ODE's Assessment Team Webpage](#)

Please send any questions, comments, or recommendations to:

[ODE.AssessmentTeam@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:ODE.AssessmentTeam@ode.oregon.gov)

Student test data helps **improve our understanding** of how well we are teaching and supporting our students.

State testing gives a snapshot of how a **whole school system** is performing in key areas. This helps with decisions that will improve instruction and provide targeted resources and support to different schools.

Results of state tests help identify trends in learning. This is especially important if **groups of students**, such as students with disabilities and students federally identified as English learners, are being underserved.

*ODE Assessment Resources*

[The Right Assessment for the Right Purpose](#)

[Parent Assessment Literacy Training Modules](#)