

Assessment FAQ for 2021-22

Overview

1. What is the plan for state summative assessments in 2021-22?

ODE expects a return to comprehensive, pre-pandemic state summative assessment practices in 2021-22. Some changes to testing practices and test blueprints will be carried forward from 2020-21, but these changes are not directly related to health and safety. For the most recent health and safety recommendations, please see the [Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework](#).

2. What is most important to consider when planning for assessment for the 2021-22 school year?

In the classroom, it remains critical to leverage formative assessment practices and appropriately use interim assessment systems. [Formative assessment practices](#) hold the most power for driving learning, as evidence of learning is brought to light in the moment and can guide student and educator practices. Student self-assessment is the cornerstone of formative assessment practices, supported by peer and teacher descriptive feedback. [Interim assessments](#) can be administered periodically to inform teacher practice and have flexible uses. Optimal uses of interim assessments occur after the content to be assessed had been provided during instruction. Interim assessment results can then be used to identify areas that require further instruction as well as areas where mastery has been attained. Prioritizing relationships and classroom routines prior to administering formal assessments is a necessity.

NOTE: No single assessment should keep students from participating in a program, course sequence, or educational opportunity. This expectation applies to all placement tests and is particularly concerning in the area of middle-grade mathematics placement tests. Use multiple sources to make course placement decisions, with multiple modes of assessment to ensure that the mode of assessment is not affecting the placement decision (which is likely high stakes for the student).

Spring 2021

3. Will ODE report school, district, and state academic achievement results from spring 2021 assessments?

Oregon's assessment data reporting expectations requires further negotiation and discussion with our colleagues at the United States Department of Education and no final decisions have been made at this time. ODE wants to emphasize that districts and schools have access to data

for all students who participated in our state summative assessments in spring 2021. Consistent with the requirements in [OAR 581-022-2270 6\(c\)](#), families whose children participated in spring 2021 state summative assessments must be provided with Individual Score Reports. Note that these data are available in ODE's secure district website applications for official score reporting, such as Secure Assessment Reports. They are not available in the Centralized Reporting System or its predecessor the Online Reporting System, which are sources of unofficial score reports.

Please contact your [Regional ESD Partner](#) for help with score retrieval.

4. What are appropriate and inappropriate uses of student achievement data from spring 2021?

Given historically low participation rates, summative achievement data from the spring 2021 administration in English language arts, mathematics, and science have limited utility and cannot fulfill their defined purposes within assessment and accountability systems. The results can be used to provide educators with a reliable snapshot of individual student performance for those who participated in relation to Oregon's content standards and benchmarks. In the 2020-21 school year, performance was heavily impacted by limitations in opportunity to learn, as well, which must inform all interpretations.

Pursuant to our Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation, ODE advises that summative assessment results from the spring 2021 test administrations in ELA, mathematics, and science not be used to compare schools or districts unless an 80% participation threshold is met. These data should also not be used for high stakes decisions that have individual consequences, including, but not limited to: student grades, student grade level promotion, teacher evaluation, or school ratings.

Spring 2022

5. Will all students (grades 3-8 & 11) be required to participate in the Spring 2022 Oregon Summative Assessments?

Yes. Federal participation requirements within the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) [Section 1111(c)(4)(E)] and Oregon statute ([ORS 329.485](#)) are in place.

6. Will Oregon students be required to participate in the Student Educational Equity Development Survey (SEED Survey) in the 2021-22 school year?

No. The [SEED Survey](#) pilot from spring 2021 provided promising and compelling data and ODE is excited about the process of centering student voice and focusing more attention on system inputs and the quality of pedagogical practices that the SEED Survey promises. However,

participation was significantly impacted by the pandemic and was not sufficient to support generalizable determinations regarding design or efficacy. ODE will work with districts who participated in 2021 to interpret and make use of their data, as well as working with education partners to increase participation as we extend the SEED Survey pilot into spring 2022. The SEED pilot for 2021-22 will include new and revised items, as well as high school versions in Grades 9, 10, and 11.

7. What is the testing schedule for 2021-22?

The [2021-22 testing schedule](#) is posted on ODE's website and on the state testing portal. The ELPA Screener is available nearly year-round, from August 3, 2021 through July 15, 2022.

8. Will the Spring 2022 Oregon Summative Assessments have the same number and types of questions as in prior years?

The ELA and mathematics summative assessments have been shortened to maximize their efficiency and to better align with recently updated Oregon State Standards. Both assessments will include a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) component and a Performance Task (PT) component. The CAT portion of these summative assessments have been reduced for ELA and mathematics, compared to the respective pre-pandemic CAT, in order to maximize efficiency. The PTs will be consistent with those used in prior years, however, ODE will be shifting the assessment of narrative writing to the local level and will not include narrative writing in the OSAS ELA summative assessments. There are no changes to the types of questions in either assessment. More specific blueprint information will be posted on the [ELA Assessment](#) and [Math Assessment](#) webpages by October 29, 2021.

The science assessment, as well as the Oregon Extended Assessments, will have the same number and types of questions as in years prior to 2020-2021. A summary of the blueprint for Science can be found on the [ODE Science Assessment webpage](#).

9. What are the differences between the shortened 2021 - 22 ELA and Mathematics summative assessments and those employed in 2018-19 (pre-pandemic)?

Compared to the 2018-19 ELA and Mathematics summative assessments, the number of CAT items has been reduced by 40% on the shortened 2020 - 21 ELA and Mathematics summative assessments. The shortened tests maximize efficiency while maintaining test blueprint adherence. Target Reports will continue to serve as an important resource in understanding longitudinal learning trends, if participation rates are sufficient to allow this use.

10. Are Essential Skills required for the class of 2022? What about the class of 2023 or beyond?

The Oregon Legislative Assembly passed [SB 744](#) which directs the Oregon Department of Education to review state requirements for high school diploma options, as well as to review state requirements related to demonstrations of proficiency in Essential Skills. Allowing for this review, students will not be required to show proficiency in Essential Skills as a condition of receiving a high school diploma during the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years.

Note: *SB 774 applies to the assessment of Essential Skills requirements for receiving a Regular or Modified Diploma and **does not** suspend the local performance assessment requirements for students in grades 3 through 8 and at least once in high school. Though not related to assessment the education plan, education profile, and extended application graduation requirements remain in place, as well.*

ODE is in the process of reviewing the assessment of Essential Skills requirements. The legislature is requiring a final report, with recommendations, by September of 2022. Pending the review of the state requirements for high diploma options and the need to provide students and families with advance notice of any changes, ODE will provide additional information of Essential Skills requirements to Oregon districts and educators. ODE published a revised [Essential Skills and Local Performance Assessment](#) manual for 2021 -22.

11. Will the online reporting system (ORS) still be available for districts to review district level data?

The Online Reporting System (ORS) has transitioned to the Centralized Reporting System (CRS) in 2021-22 and going forward. CRS improves functionality and navigability, and provides reports for all of Oregon's tests (ELA, Math, Science, ELPA Summative and Screener, as well as ELA/Math and Science Interims).

An updated CRS User Guide can be found on the [Test Administration](#) page.

Opt-Out and Exemption

12. What's the difference between an opt-out and a parent request for exemption?

The term "opt-out" refers to the legislatively created process that applies specifically to the ELA and mathematics assessments. Parents may opt out of ELA and Mathematics by submitting the ODE state-created opt-out form (found on the [Test Administration](#) page, under the Forms pulldown). Exemptions are available under [OAR 581-021-0009: Exemptions](#). Parents may submit a written request based on disability or religion. Please see the table below for those assessments that are eligible for parent opt-out versus those that are eligible for exemption.

Assessment	Eligible for Parent Opt-out	Eligible for Parent Exemption
English language arts (both the general assessment and the Oregon Extended)	X	
Mathematics (both the general assessment and the Oregon Extended)	X	
Science (both the general assessment and the Oregon Extended)		X
English language proficiency assessment (Summative and Screener)		X
SEED Survey		X

13. Can the opt-out letter districts send include Science in addition to Math and ELA?

No. Science is subject to a separate process, as is the ELPA, called parent exemption. It cannot be combined with ELA and Math. Recent legislative proposals to alter or expand the opt-out process did not move forward.

Other Assessments

14. Will the Kindergarten Assessment be required in the fall 2021?

No. The Oregon Kindergarten Assessment (KA) was suspended in fall of 2020 and 2021 by the State Board of Education due to both the pandemic and concerns related to its design and implementation. ODE and ELD are committed to engaging education and community partners in the 2021-22 school year to determine how the KA should be redesigned for future administrations.

15. What is required for Dyslexia Screening?

Pursuant to [OAR 581-022-2445](#), districts must universally screen all students for risk factors of dyslexia in kindergarten, and in first grade for students who first enroll in a public school in Oregon in first grade, using a screening tool from the [Department's approved list](#). Updates to the ODE List of Approved Universal Screening Tools for Risk Factors of Dyslexia will be announced on the ODE Dyslexia [webpage](#).

16. How will the ODE meet statutory requirements in ORS 329.488 regarding a nationally-normed college entrance practice examination?

ODE is finalizing the Request for Proposals to select a vendor to make a nationally-normed college entrance practice examination available for Oregon's 10th graders in the 2021-22 school year. Updates will be shared with District Test Coordinators. The Assessment Team also maintains a nationally-normed college entrance practice examination [webpage](#) where updates will be posted.

Please send any questions regarding our state assessment system to ODE.AssessmentTeam@state.or.us.