

DTC Webinar: Q&A Session – March 10, 2021

Important Note: The answers to these questions are contingent upon multiple factors in our system that may change, most importantly the federal response to Oregon’s strategic waiver request. Discussions with the US Department of Education are ongoing. Oregon has not yet received a response to our request, and we do not know whether or to what extent summative assessment will be required. With the exception of questions related to ELPA and SEED Surveys, these responses are provided because DTCs expressed a need to understand how to think about, and possibly plan for, summative assessments this spring in the event that our waiver request is denied.

Opt-outs and Exemption from Summative Testing

1. **Q:** If a student is in CDL, and the family refused to send the student to school for testing, must we require them to complete an opt-out form, or do we record that refusal in some other way?

A: Parents whose children are being served in Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) models, including virtual charter schools, would be expected to participate in statewide summative assessment. Parents who do not want their child to participate should submit a parent opt-out form (for language arts and mathematics) In terms of recording and reporting non-participants to ODE, Appendix C provides the administration codes to use under various circumstances:

- For parent opt-outs for math and language arts, enter Code X.
- For parents requesting exemption for science or ELPA, enter Code 7.
- For student refusal or absence, enter Code 1 or written exemption request (for science)

2. **Q:** We will need to send out the 30-day opt-out letter this week. Is there one available that explains the situation we are in?

A: Yes. ODE posted updated versions of all parent opt-out resources on March 10, 2021, including a new parent communication template for 2021 that explains our shortened test blueprints and communicates the unique nature of the situation to parents (i.e., the fact that our waiver request has not been resolved yet). These resources are available within the “Forms” section of the Assessment Team’s [Test Administration webpage](#).

3. **Q:** So it sounds like the opt-out form is in the process of being changed/updated so that we can send it out electronically. Do we need to find a way to collect that data back securely through technology?

A: The revised versions of the parent opt-out forms available at the link in Answer #2 can be submitted in hard copy or emailed electronically. Only the student’s name is included, and not with SSID nor DOB.

4. Q: Will ODE be providing more direction for opt-in/out? We cannot "advise" families to opt-out, so the language can be tricky.

A: Please see Answer #2 for revised opt-out forms. The expectation is that all students will test for ELA and mathematics, or pursue parent opt-out procedures. For science, parents who do not want their child to participate would follow our exemption process. If parents do not submit opt-out forms, do not request an exemption, and/or do not bring their child in for testing, districts and virtual charter schools would not be expected to continue communication nor schedule make-up testing for those students. On the other hand, any parent who wants their child tested within the testing window should be accommodated. Districts and virtual charter schools should not bring any student on to campus or to an "assessment center" exclusively to participate in statewide summative assessments if health and safety conditions do not allow.

5. Q: Will the parent opt out form be updated? It currently has the testing window as March 4-June 4.

A: Please see Answer #2 above and our apologies that this was not edited earlier.

6. Q: Can we create our own Google form for opt out so we have it available on Friday? Or do we need to wait until we get an electronic form from ODE?

A: While we appreciate the question and acknowledge that it would be an efficient solution for districts, [ORS 329.479](#) requires districts to use the form developed by ODE.

7. Q: Is there a copy of the opt-out Form in Spanish?

A: Yes, all of the forms are made available in English and Spanish. See Answer #2 above to access those materials.

8. Q: Due to health and safety issues, will testing be an opt-out or opt-in for parents?

A: Please see Answer #4.

9. Q: Are we assuming that all kids will test unless opting out or that parents will need to opt their kids in for testing, similar to the ELPA?

A: Please see Answer #4. The ELPA test window and situation required a different response. The Governor's announcement that schools will be returning to hybrid or in-person models by the week of March 29 for Grades K-5 and by April 19 for Grades 6-12 opens up additional on-site opportunities for summative assessment.

10. Q: Could the opt-out letter include Science? Parents are consistently unclear about writing a letter besides submitting the-opt our letter for ELA/Math.

A: Science is subject to a separate process, as is the ELPA, called parent exemption. It cannot be combined with ELA and math. There is a bill being considered at the legislature that would combine all opt-out processes, which we will communicate with

you all about if it passes. It is not likely to be in place this spring as a regulatory requirement.

11. Q: Is there a problem if we've already sent out the opt-out forms?

A: You have met the procedural requirement. Just be aware that the test window dates have shifted to April 13-June 11, 2021, and that the updated versions referenced in Answer #2 above include additional clarification related to our waiver context.

12. Q: Just clarification, does opt-out have to be signed and turned in by March 12 or just published by then?

A: The parent 30-day opt-out notice needs to be made publicly available by Friday, March 12, 2021, using your typical communication channels. It does not need to be submitted by Friday March 12. Parents are encouraged to submit the forms at least one week prior to the opening of the test window to allow districts to be responsive but may submit the form at any time.

Essential Skills

13. Q: Do you have any updates on Essential Skills requirements for the class of 2022?

A: Yes. ODE recommended that Essential Skills requirements be suspended for students who graduate in 2021-22. The first read was provided to the State Board of Education on February 18, 2021. The second read, where the final decision is expected, will be conducted during the April 15, 2021, State Board of Education meeting.

14. Q: What happens if students start taking tests? Would their scores count for Essential Skills?

A: If there are no Essential Skills requirements in place, then state summative assessment scores cannot be used to meet them.

15. Q: Will PTs continued to be removed for future years? What happens for the writing Essential Skill if that is required in future years?

A: ODE is currently evaluating our test blueprint options for 2021-22 and beyond.

Training

16. Q: When will all the trainings modules and TAM be ready for us to begin training? Will any training modules be changing?

A: We understand that you need those resources to plan for training. The Assessment Team is revising our TAM and will make the revised version available by Monday, March 15, 2021. Training modules were revised and are now posted on the Assessment Team [Test Administration](#) webpage under "Training Modules." All revisions are outlined in the table below, by Module, so you can track them (especially those who have already designed trainings or used the prior materials in any way).

Module	Slide	Change Needed
1	15	Update test windows (4/13/21 to 6/11/21)
1	25	Remove reference to 95% participation requirement
2	7	Remove reference to 95% participation requirement
3	N/A	
4	N/A	
5	4	Update test windows (4/13/21 to 6/11/21)
5	10	Update test windows (4/13/21 to 6/11/21)
5	25	Clarify that student data will not be available in ORS for spring 2021 assessments
6	4	Update test windows (4/13/21 to 6/11/21)
6	4	Remove reference to 4-week minimum school test window requirement
7	5	Update test window (2/9/21 to 4/30/21)
8	N/A	
9	N/A	

17. Q: If we need to move ahead (regardless of final word on waiver) due to time constraints, can we get the revised training materials that we will need for STC/TA sessions. We will need to start training right away and we need updated materials.

A: Understood. The table provided in Answer # 18 above should help orient you to the changes we are making to the Training Modules. We will make the revised TAM available as soon as possible, as well.

2020-21 Summative Testing

18. Q: If testing does occur this year, will that include the extended assessment as well?

A: Yes, the Oregon Extended Assessment is treated as similarly as possible to our general assessment.

19. Q: Being a Virtual Charter School, we are required to secure testing sites ahead of time to test our students. ESD's, colleges, hotels, libraries, etc. are locations we have reserved and rented in previous years. This may be problematic if the waiver is denied. Has this been part of the discussion?

A: Yes, this has been, and continues to be, a concern. ODE will parter with virtual charter schools to try to support statewide assessment participation. Please see Answer #1 for information regarding parent opt-out expectations.

20. Q: Are the testing times listed in the TAM still accurate?

A: This information lines up with what is in the revised TAM, and is consistent with what was published in the October 2020 TAM except for science (where the removal of field test items decision was made only recently).

21. Q: Would ED be open to districts submitting their own Interim assessments as sufficient for state testing purposes?

A: ED has entertained that option in states that have required interim assessment systems. Oregon does not have such a system. (District-originated interim assessments do not meet ED's standard for a required statewide assessment system). Furthermore, ODE is committed to ensuring that our interim assessment results are never associated with accountability. They are tools that we want in the hands of teachers as part of the ongoing teaching and learning process.

22. Q: Since none of Oregon's summative assessments can be delivered remotely, we are NOT required to test students who remain in CDL, correct? Do we need to document non-participation?

A: Please see Answer #8 above.

23. Q: Do you have any updates regarding Extended and Kindergarten Assessments?

A: For the Extended, please see Answer #20 above. ODE recommended that the Kindergarten Assessment be suspended for the fall 2021 administration to allow for us to engage with education and community partners at the February 18, 2021, State Board of Education meeting. A second reading, where a final decision is expected, will be held on April 15, 2021.

24. Q: With the greatly reduced testing time due to hybrid students only being in the buildings 2-3 days per week, will there be any penalties for simply not being able to test all eligible students due to running out of time?

A: It is unlikely that there will be penalties as long as a good faith effort is put forth. We understand the time and resource constraints that are present.

SEED Survey

25. Q: Do accessibility supports need to be documented in a student's IEP to be available for use on the SEED survey?

A: The SEED Survey is not an assessment and should be treated like any other instructional activity. All accommodations that students might require for instruction, as recorded in their IEP, should be provided; most are available through our Test Delivery System (TDS), which needs to be set up in TIDE in advance.

26. Q: As a small school district, I was planning on administering the SEED Survey as an assignment for student myself. Do my teachers still need to be trained?

A: Training on administering the SEED Survey is only required for district personnel who will be administering the SEED Survey. If only one person will be administering the Survey, only that person needs training on SEEDS administration.

27. Q: How long will the average student take to complete the SEEDS Survey?

A: The SEED Survey is expected to take approximately 10-20 minutes for students in Grades 3-5 and 20-30 minutes for students in Grades 6-11.

NAEP

28. Q: Has the suspension of NAEP changed their alternating year approach to assessment?

A: The announcement actually does change the odd/even approach that NAEP will take in 2021-22 and beyond. You can locate this information online at the [NAEP assessment schedules webpage](#).

29. Q: I am concerned about student confidentiality on the NAEP COVID-19 survey.

A: NCES will report only state-level data from the NAEP 2021 Monthly School Survey. Reports will not include data at the school or district level. There is no risk of unintentionally disclosing individual student information.

30. Q: Is NAEP Monthly Survey still a monthly submission? In the DTC webinar yesterday with ODE it sounded like it was a one time submission on March 12th.

A: It is a monthly survey through the end of the year. Here is the schedule:

- **March 2 - 12:** Window to submit data for **January**.
- **March 22 – 26:** Window to submit data for **February**. I have informed NCES that this window overlaps with Oregon's spring break and requested an extension of the window. If NCES does not extend the window, I will collect the data from you during the prior week and submit it during the window. I will provide more information as soon as possible.
- **April 19 – 23:** Window to submit data for **March**.
- **May 24 – 28:** Window to submit data for **April**.
- **June 21 – 25:** Window to submit data for **May**.

ODE is still working with NCES on the conflict with Spring Break; we expect to know by Monday, March 15, 2021, what next step to take.

31. Q: Would DTCs been notified if our school was selected for the NAEP School Survey?

A: Yes. If you have not been contacted, you can rest assured that you do not need to contribute.