



# Elevating Student Voice Communications Toolkit

Tools for School and District Leaders to better  
understand Oregon's Student Educational  
Equity Development (SEED) Survey

April 2022



# Oregon Department of Education | Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey

## Communications Toolkit

April 2022

Dear Education Partners,

This communications toolkit is designed to support school staff, district leaders, students and families to better understand the Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey. The materials in the toolkit include:

- Key messages
- Template letter to students and families
- 1-page flier template
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Resources

We invite you to make use of these resources to initiate conversations and communication with staff, students, families and your school board. Thank you for elevating the voices of Oregon's students.

More information can be found on the [ODE SEED Survey web page](#). Please contact the [ODE SEED Survey team](#) with any questions or concerns.

## Key messages for educators and school leaders

**Provides opportunity to hear directly from students.** The SEED Survey gives students the opportunity to voice their experiences in Oregon’s education system.

**Takes 10-15 minutes.** A brief survey, with multiple choice questions for grades 3-11 and additional open-ended responses for grades 6-11.

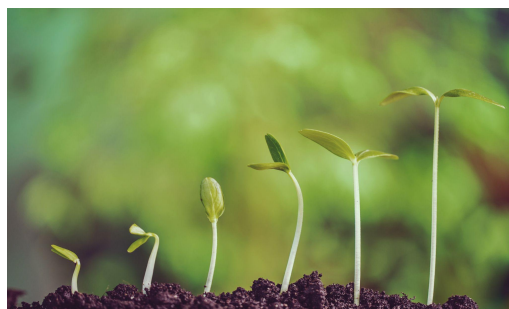
**Designed to capture students’ sense of belonging and experience at school.** The survey asks students about their experience in class, their access to resources and what they learned.

**An equity tool that meets the moment.** The results of the survey give schools powerful information to create more equitable learning experiences based on the perceptions and lived experiences of students in their schools.

**Data from the survey serves as input to inform local education investment decisions.** The results of the survey are disaggregated by student population and provide input to inform local education investment decisions for the Student Success Act’s Student Investment Account (SIA), the American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER funds, and High School Success (HSS) funds.

**Flexible administration options.** The survey may be given in a proctored in-class session using the secure browser, or in a non-proctored ‘assignment’ that students may take online through a non-secure, web-based browser at any time within the selected window.

**Available to meet the needs of all learners.** The Alt-SEED, designed for students who experience significant cognitive disabilities, has similar questions that can be completed alongside a teacher or educational professional. Students may use the same embedded supports as they would use on statewide assessments.



## Letter/email to students and families

**Use this letter/email to help build awareness and understanding about the Student Survey.**

**Suggested subject line: Elevating Student Voice**

Dear Students & Families,

In [redacted] School District, we are deeply committed to helping each and every student learn, grow and thrive. We want to support students in reaching their full potential. We also want to provide opportunities for feedback and input so we can continue to improve as a school district.

Over the next few weeks, **students in grades 3-11 will be asked to take a short 10- 15 minute survey.** Students can complete the survey as a school activity or remotely at home.

### **The survey will ask students:**

- About the kinds of activities they did in school this year;
- What supplies they had to help with schoolwork; and
- How they felt about school and learning this year.

### **Additional Helpful Information**

- You may decline participation of your child for any reason.
- Students can skip questions within the survey if they do not want to or cannot respond for any reason.
- The survey will be available for students experiencing significant cognitive disabilities that captures the same information with the support of a teacher or staff member.

If you have questions or concerns about the survey, please contact [redacted].

**(Add additional school information).**



# ELEVATING STUDENT VOICE

Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey

## Student Voice Survey

We want to hear from our students! This survey asks students about their school experience, how they feel about school and what resources and activities they have access to.

### Did you know?

- Will be offered to students in grades 3-11.
- Students can use the same supports during the SEED Survey that are available in statewide summative assessments.
- The SEED Survey is currently available in English, Spanish, and Russian in the Test Delivery System.
- This data will be helpful to our school decision making discussions.

### Take the 15-minute Survey Today!



See the survey districts are talking about on the [ODE SEED Survey web page](#).





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## Resources for Educators

The resources below provide additional information for the administration of the survey.

- The [ODE SEED Survey web page](#) contains:
  - A full copy of the SEED Survey is available in English, Russian, and Spanish for grades 3-11.
  - A full copy of the Alt-SEED Survey for grades 3-8 & 11.
- [SEED Survey Quick Guide](#) for survey administration. This quick guide supports District Testing Coordinators (DTCs) and Test Administrators (TAs) who manage in-person and remote sessions for students participating in the Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey. The guide assumes some familiarity with the Oregon Statewide Assessment System (OSAS) test delivery system.
- Alt-SEED administration is found on the same training and proficiency platform that houses our [Oregon Extended Assessment](#), and subsequently is administered by an Assessor that is familiar with the student's instruction, strengths and individual needs.





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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: Is the SEED Survey required?**

A: The SEED Survey and Alt-SEED Survey are in the second pilot year in 2021-22 and are optional. District participation is customizable and districts may choose to administer the SEED Survey and/or Alt SEED Survey at all, some, or none of their schools.

### **Q: How is the SEED Survey related to statewide testing?**

A: Unlike state testing, which measures what students know and can do, the SEED Survey measures what students experience during their education in Oregon. The SEED Survey fills in some of the gaps in our understanding by capturing students' perceptions and experiences.

### **Q: What exactly is measured on the SEED Survey?**

A: The SEED Survey will measure student perceptions in four core constructs: Access to Learning Resources, Opportunity to Learn (OTL), Self-Efficacy Beliefs, and Sense of Belonging. The OTL and Self-Efficacy constructs focus on specific content areas in each grade level.

- The high school survey includes all core constructs and all content areas, while also addressing Extra-curricular Engagement and Post-Graduation Planning.
- OTL and Self-Efficacy are measured in English language arts at Grades 3, 6, and 9; in mathematics at Grades 4, 7, 10; in science at Grades 5, 8, 11; and in Native American Culture/History in Grades 4-11.
- The Grades 3-5 and 7-11 surveys contain questions about Well-Rounded Education.
- The Grades 6-11 surveys include questions pertaining to Career-Technical Education.
- The Alt-SEED Survey—developed for students experiencing significant cognitive disabilities—measures: Independence, Access to Learning Resources, OTL, and Sense of Belonging.

### **Q: How was the SEED Survey developed?**

A: ODE researched a range of national and international educational surveys including NAEP, TIMSS, PISA, and others. ODE customized items from these surveys for the Oregon context. Items on national and international surveys undergo rigorous review on a regular basis; however, ODE recruited Oregon educators from diverse backgrounds and regions to review all prospective items for the SEED Survey using an Oregon lens. The items were modified based on





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feedback from the educator review panels. ODE will revisit the SEED Survey each year to evaluate survey items and update the questions as needed.

**Q: What kind of practice might students need for the SEED Survey?**

A: The SEED survey uses the same interface as state testing. Students who are new to the testing interface may wish to practice navigation or use of embedded tools and supports through one of the OSAS Assessment sample and training tests.

**Q: Since survey items are non-secure, can teachers or parents help students with the answers?**

A: Some SEED Survey items ask students to evaluate their school experience, so it is important that students are provided with the privacy and independence needed to allow for personalized responses. While it is inappropriate to try to influence student responses, it is permissible to help students better understand the question. For example, teachers or parents may explain what a word means.

**Q: Can the SEED Survey be paused? What happens to partially completed surveys when the survey window closes?**

A: Yes, the SEED Survey can be paused, and student progress will be saved. Since there is no scoring or accountability measure attached to the survey, answers from partially completed surveys will be included in the data.





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## Sample Social Media Posts

The following social media posts are intended to be used as a starting point for schools and districts to share with students, families, teachers, staff, or community members. These are customizable, so please feel free to adjust for tone, voice and framing to better suit your needs and the people you plan to send it to.

Since the survey can be completed remotely and outside of school time, you may consider adding incentives to encourage participation.

[Redacted] School District wants to hear from students! All students in grades 3-11 will have the opportunity to take a short 15-minute survey. #ElevatingStudentVoice

Students, we want to hear from you! Take this Student Survey and tell us about your school experience. #ElevatingStudentVoice

Student Survey available now! For more information go to [Redacted] and learn more about how your child can participate. #ElevatingStudentVoice

The Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey is about elevating student voices!

[Redacted] School District wants to know more about students' experiences in school.  
#ElevatingStudentVoice

