



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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**Colt Gill**

Director of the Oregon Department of Education

# Oregon's Statewide Assessment Plan

District Planning for 2020-21

## Introduction

Due to factors arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, on-site schooling in Oregon was suspended during spring 2020. This led to significant disruptions to past practices in many areas, including the suspension of our statewide summative testing requirements. We remain aware that Oregon's districts are currently dealing with critical challenges related to systemic racism and impacts from the pandemic, including feeding families, budget cuts, and redesigning schooling. In order to support our district test coordinators in planning for the 2020-21 school year, we must nevertheless consider the role of our statewide assessments at this time.

Statewide summative assessments provide common measures that are reliable for gauging student performance in relation to Oregon's adopted content standards and benchmarks, helping to identify areas within our educational system where resources are needed in order to support equitable opportunity and outcomes for all of Oregon's students. Though our interpretation of these data will change, it remains important to monitor student performance and growth over time. Administrators and policy makers use these data to inform critical school- and district-wide decisions around staffing, curricula, and instruction. The statewide summative assessments are also required by both federal and state legislation. ODE is thus planning for statewide summative assessment in the spring of 2021. To support our districts, ODE will provide a curated statewide interim assessment system and instructional resources. Assessment remains a critical support for instruction.

The following represents ODE's projections for statewide testing in 2020-21. We are mindful that many aspects of our statewide assessment system, which currently assumes that in-person, secure testing environments can be maintained, may need to shift at school, district, and possibly state levels as we adapt and adjust to the impact of the COVID-19 virus. We will communicate any changes with our education and community partners as responsively as possible.

ODE will update this plan as necessary should these or any other assumptions prove inaccurate. If a past practice is not mentioned in this document, assume that it will continue as in prior years. For ongoing information regarding these and other assessment topics, please subscribe to the [Assessment and Accountability Update](#).

## Overall Plan

Assessment is a support system for instruction. It is the process of gathering evidence of learning. At its best, assessment is seamlessly woven into instruction. The most important aspects of assessment are individual student reflection, self-monitoring, and self-assessment, as those skills support independence and lifelong learning. Peer assessment and teacher feedback help students navigate confusion and define their next learning moves in the social context where deep learning occurs.

It is most important that districts and schools focus on classroom assessment practices that can drive needed changes to instruction. These practices should be primarily composed of formative assessment practices (see [Oregon Formative Assessment for Students and Teachers](#)). For the first time in the history of our assessment system, ODE will provide a curated statewide interim assessment system for our districts, including tools for teachers that connect assessment results with instructional options at multiple levels of challenge.

## Manuals and Training

- Oregon's various manuals will be updated according to the same schedule as in prior years.
- DTC and TA training requirements will remain the same and proceed along the same schedule as in prior years.

## Testing

### What is the Same?

Oregon will conduct summative testing in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science, for our general assessment and our alternate, Oregon Extended Assessments, as well as our English Language Proficiency in 2020-21. The English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) Screener and Social Sciences performance assessment will be available for districtwide use.

### What is New?

- Due to the impact of extended school closure and ODE budget reductions, the Kindergarten Assessment was suspended by the State Board of Education for 2020-21.
- In order to alleviate the impact of our high school assessments on our students who may participate in AP, IB, ACT, SAT or other additional assessments, early testing will be consistently allowed for 10<sup>th</sup> Graders who have successfully completed the advanced coursework necessary to allow for demonstration of proficiency in relation to Grade 11 content in ELA, mathematics, and science. Grade 11 remains our grade for accountability purposes (*Note: early testing, or targeting up, is only allowed at Grade 10 in all content areas, including science*).
- 12<sup>th</sup> Graders who would like an opportunity to participate in the Grade 11 assessment should be provided with an opportunity to do so, as well. Several colleges, universities, and community colleges use those results for course placement decisions and it may be important for some of our students who did not get this opportunity last year.

- ODE's contract with College Board for the PSAT ends on June 30, 2020. ODE is reviewing our options to meet the intent and requirements within [ORS 329.488](#) for 2020-21.
- ODE will provide districts with the option of accessing a statewide ELA and Math interim assessment system in Grades 3-8 and high school, including tools for teachers that provide educators with instructional tools and resources, for 2020-21, with no district costs. This system is relevant for assessment decision-making as schooling begins and throughout the year to normalize; it may also help districts in trimming assessment budgets. ODE is working to provide this resource for future years, as well. Further guidance regarding appropriate uses of the interim assessment system and tools for teachers is in development.

## Test Windows

### What is the Same?

- In High School, Grade 11, our statewide test window for ELA, Mathematics, and Science will be open from January 7, 2021 through June 3, 2021.
- The 2020-21 statewide test window for ELPA will open in January 2021 and will close in April 2021.
- The ELPA Screener will remain available year-round, except for planned system downtimes.
- The Social Sciences performance assessment is optional and will remain available year-round.
- The Smarter Interim assessment system and teacher tools will remain available year-round (accessible after mid-September through the end of the year, annually).

### What is New?

- In Grades 3-8, the 2020-21 statewide test window for ELA, Mathematics, and Science will open on March 4, 2021 and will close on June 3, 2021. This allows for all schools to meet opportunity to learn thresholds (the 66% instructional day requirement) and is consistent with historical district test administration practices.

Exact dates for the above windows will be posted on the Test Administration Page under [Current Testing Schedule](#).

## Test Administration Expectations by Subject Area

### What is the Same?

#### ELA, Math, & Science (general and alternate)

- No changes planned for the 2020-21 administration.

#### ELPA Suite (including Summative, Screener, and Alt-ELPA)

- The Alt-ELPA is still under development and will not be administered in 2020-21. The operational Alt-ELPA is currently planned for 2023-24.

#### Social Sciences

- Remains an optional assessment as part of OSAS.

- Locally-administered prompts available via online delivery system hosted by Willamette Education Service District (ESD).
- Further [Social Sciences Performance Assessment Resources](#).

### What is New?

#### Kindergarten Assessment

Pursuant to budget concerns and test administration practices, the KA will not be administered in 2020-21. The Assessment Team will engage education and community partners to reimagine our approaches to statewide assessment in Grades K-2 during the 2020-21 school year.

#### Unique Use of our ELPA Screener

There were several students who were unable to participate in the spring 2020 ELPA Summative assessment due to extended school closures. It is not possible to determine whether students who did not participate in the spring 2020 summative would have met proficiency expectations. Providing a fall testing opportunity is not an appropriate option for many reasons, including differences in opportunity to learn. Our charge is not to determine whether students would have been proficient, but to determine whether those students continue to need English language development support for 2020-21.

- To address this question, our ELPA Screener will be used in the fall of 2020 to determine whether English learners did not complete the spring 2020 ELPA Summative continue to be eligible for English language development services.
- ODE understands that this requires staffing to accomplish. We are working on fiscal supports to alleviate the impact for districts, but do not have clear budgetary expectations in place yet.
- The ELPA Screener will be available within the OSAS Portal by August 4, 2020. Districts who are able to use the system, which requires on-site procedures be in place, may do so before school opens in order to allow for course placement decisions to be made prior to the beginning of the school year.
- The test window for this unique use will run from August 4 through November 20, 2020.
- ODE will provide guidance for districts to support efficient planning and preparations needed to meet this expectation.
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#### Mathematics

- Will include field test items, which were originally scheduled for the 2019-20 administration.
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#### Partially Completed Tests

- Due to psychometric considerations and system limitations, partially completed statewide summative assessments cannot be scored and will not be reported for 2019-20.

## Interim Assessments

- Oregon will provide an interim assessment suite for ELA and Math, including tools for teachers (formerly called digital library), for all Oregon school districts at no district cost during the 2020-21 school year. The system is designed by Smarter Balanced and aligned to content in Grades 3-8 and high school, but allows for flexible teacher use that is not defined by grade level.
  - For more information, contact Tony Bertrand at [tony.bertrand@ode.state.or.us](mailto:tony.bertrand@ode.state.or.us).
- A Science Interim assessment bank will be available for districts to purchase during the 2020-21 school year.
  - For more information, contact Noelle Gorbett at [noelle.gorbett@ode.state.or.us](mailto:noelle.gorbett@ode.state.or.us).

## Test Information Delivery Engine (TIDE)

User accounts have historically been purged from TIDE during the year-to-year system rollover. This year, user accounts will not be purged from the system. DTCs **will no longer be required** to add users back in to the system in the fall. DTCs **will now manage** user permission to administer tests by test group (ELPA Screener, Summative tests, and/or Interim tests) using a new feature in TIDE for 2020-21. More information about the new process for setting test administration permissions by test group will be provided in the 2020-21 TIDE User Guide. As a best practice to ensure security, DTCs should delete users who no longer need access to the assessment systems. All users will be required to reset their password when logging in for the first time for the 2020-21 school year.

Please contact [Dan Farley](#), ODE's Director of Assessment, if you have any questions, comments, or recommendations regarding this information.