

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S STUDENT EDUCATIONAL EQUITY DEVELOPMENT (SEED) SURVEY: GRADES 3 – 11



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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❖ **School districts are required to offer the Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey in Grades 3rd – 11th.**

- Your child's school will select surveying dates between:

- **February – June**

❖ The survey is made up of survey items aligned to the [standards and instruction of Oregon](#). Students are asked about their learning experiences in schools.

❖ **The SEED Survey invites students to share their experiences in:**

- **Opportunity to Learn and Self-Efficacy:** in Language Arts, Math, and Science, as well as their opportunity to learn about Tribes in Oregon.
- **Well-Rounded Education and Extracurricular Engagement:** access to classes and activities from a variety of disciplines and areas of interests.
- **Career Connected Learning and Post-Graduation Planning:** opportunities to explore and prepare for life after graduation.

❖ Oregon provides [resources](#) for families and students to learn more about the SEED Survey.

OREGON STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM STUDENT EDUCATIONAL EQUITY DEVELOPMENT (SEED) SURVEY

The mission of the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is to foster equity and excellence for every learner through collaboration with educators, partners, and communities. ODE, along with your district and local school board, helps ensure your child has every advantage to reach their full potential.

The [Student Educational Equity Development \(SEED\) Survey](#) is administered annually to students in grades 3-11 across Oregon. **The survey centers student voice by asking students to share about their schooling experiences.** This information helps ODE better identify students' needs and informs the development of resources designed to improve students' social, emotional, and academic wellbeing.

Prior to the SEED Survey, the main types of student data ODE collected were administrative (e.g., attendance, graduation) or were in the form of end-of-year test scores (e.g., English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science). **While useful, the existing data did not capture the context of students' experiences, such as their sense of belonging or the opportunities available to them at school.** Without this information, it was difficult to identify which levers education systems could focus their efforts on in order to improve student outcomes. ODE developed the SEED Survey in 2020 and pilot tested it during 2021, 2022, and 2023. The 2024-25 school year was the first fully operational year for the SEED Survey.

The SEED Survey is only one way that student voice is uplifted in Oregon. Most districts draw from students' perspectives through local survey instruments, student participation in school and district committees, class meetings, and other school activities. The Oregon Health Authority offers a student survey that asks students about their health and well-being. The Student Voice Summer Survey captures students' experiences in summer programs funded by ODE Summer Learning Grants.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS THE SEED SURVEY REQUIRED?

[ORS 329.078](#) requires districts to make available "a survey administered by the Department of Education that is designed to assist the department in gathering information about the education experiences of students in this state, including information on learning, opportunities to learn and school culture and climate." It is not required that students participate. Students and/or their families/guardians can decline to participate, verbally or in writing. [OAR 581.022.2100](#) requires that district make the survey available in ways that align with the administration guidance provided in the SEED Survey Administration Manual.

HOW IS THE SEED SURVEY RELATED TO STATEWIDE TESTING?

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.

WHAT EXACTLY IS ASKED ON THE SEED SURVEY?

The SEED Survey collects student perceptions in four core domains: Access to Learning Resources, Opportunity to Learn, Self-Efficacy Beliefs, and Sense of Belonging. Additional domains are covered on some of the grade-level surveys. For more details about the survey, see the [SEED Survey webpage](#), which has resources on the domain definitions, sample items, and which domains are covered at which grades.

WHEN DO STUDENTS TAKE THE SEED SURVEY?

Students take the survey during the school day.

HOW ARE THE SEED SURVEY RESULTS USED?

Survey results are used to (1) honor the importance and necessity of incorporating student voices into the continuous improvement process for Oregon's public education systems; (2) provide Oregon districts with actionable data regarding investments and quality pedagogy that can be used to increase student group outcomes such as academic achievement, graduation rates, and post-secondary success; (3) develop promising practices using the SEED Survey data independently and in combination with state and local data; and (4) expand reporting to include information in addition to test scores that can help districts tell a more complete story about how they are serving students.

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO MY CHILD WHILE TAKING THE SEED SURVEY?

All students have access to numerous tools and accessibility features to use on the SEED Survey. Some "Universal Tools" include a highlighter, line reader, strike-through text to eliminate answer choices, and scratch paper. The definitions of each tool and a full list of available Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations can be found in the [Oregon Accessibility Manual](#). Please talk with your child's educator about what supports may be helpful for your child during survey administration.

WHEN WILL SURVEY RESULTS BE AVAILABLE?

ODE will publicly release statewide survey results approximately in October during the next academic school year. This allows ODE to validate all survey results with districts. The survey results are posted on the [SEED Survey webpage](#). Results are available at the state, ESD boundary, and district levels.

CONTACT INFORMATION



Contact your child's school for more information about when the SEED Survey will be administered.

Contact ODE for more information about the SEED Survey:
ODE.SEEDSurveys@ode.oregon.gov

