

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

Since 1996, Oregon's assessment system has increasingly included *all* students. Oregon offers a single comprehensive assessment system that includes every child and avoids the creation of separate standards and assessments for subgroups of students. By design, Oregon includes English language learners (students with limited English proficiency), students with disabilities, students from poor or disadvantaged backgrounds, and students with special gifts and learning needs when considering all students.

Oregon's system provides a number of options to students for participating in statewide assessments. With these options, more students than ever before are taking tests and receiving feedback on their performance. These added opportunities for participation are listed here and described below:

- Standard Administration: Knowledge and Skills and Performance Assessments
- Modified Administration
- Achievement Level Tests
- Challenge Another Benchmark
- Side-by-Side Assessments
- Plain Language Assessment
- Juried Assessment and Juried Modifications
- Extended Assessments
- Technology Enhanced Student Assessment (TESA)

Teachers, students, and families who know about these options will be better able to ensure that all students can fairly show what they know and can do. This article highlights testing options in Oregon, answering three questions: What is it? Who uses it? Where can more information be found?

Standard Administration: Knowledge and Skills and Performance Assessments

For the majority of Oregon students, participation in the statewide assessment system is through a standard administration of Knowledge and Skills tests (multiple choice tests in the content areas of reading/literature, mathematics, and science) and Performance Assessments (two open-ended tests, one where students show their ability to solve one of three real-world mathematics problems, and another where they write an essay responding to one of three provided topics). A standard administration of a test is one where the test is given and completed in a manner that is consistent with the guidelines in the test administration manual; these procedures are designed to

produce valid scores given that test administrators, usually teachers, consistently follow the same rules across the state. As part of standard administration, students are allowed as much time as needed in order to complete the assessment.

Included in these guidelines is a list of accommodations, minor changes in the way the tests are given or the way a student responds. These changes allow students an equal opportunity to demonstrate what they know; they do not substantially change the content or difficulty of the test. Accommodations are available to all students, including both students *with* and *without* disabilities, and result in scores that count toward meeting Oregon's standards.

Modified Administration

Testing modifications are adaptations that bring about substantial changes affecting the content and/or performance standards measured by the test. The changes are made to provide a student with opportunities to participate meaningfully and productively in learning experiences and environments. Students with disabilities (students both with IEPs and with 504 plans) and English language learners are eligible to take statewide assessments with modifications when appropriate.

Modifications for individual students are typically identified by teachers in the classroom during instruction. They are selected specifically to give the student access to the content and performance standards and to show what the student knows and can do. Modifications are listed on Modifications Tables in the test administration manuals. Currently, scores obtained under modified conditions are not included in group performance reporting and do not count toward meeting performance standards for individual students.

Achievement Level Tests

Achievement Level Tests for Knowledge and Skills assessments in reading/literature and mathematics were implemented in 2000 to more closely match tests to students' ability levels. There are two forms or levels of these tests at each benchmark: an "A" form with items of less difficulty for students who may be struggling to meet the content requirements at that benchmark, a "B/C" form where the item difficulty is targeted at the standard and includes items for students who are capable of exceeding the content requirements for that particular benchmark. These level tests are designed to assess the same content and have enough overlap in the difficulty of items so that a student could potentially meet benchmark standards regardless of which of the forms is taken.

The use of Achievement Level Tests provides important benefits, including producing more accurate scores for students who are performing well above or below benchmark standards, and providing a more positive testing experience for students who would normally be frustrated by a test that was too difficult or too easy.

Challenge Another Grade Level

Students may challenge another grade level by taking a test above or below their grade of enrollment. The opportunity to challenge first became available during the 2000 assessment

cycle. Challenging “down” to a lower grade level is available to students receiving Special Education with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). For example, if an eighth-grade student’s IEP focuses mathematics instruction at the Grade 5 standards, the student would be eligible to challenge the Grade 5 assessment in mathematics rather than taking a Grade 8 test. Challenging “up” is available to all students being tested. For example, a student in an accelerated program might challenge a higher grade level if his/her instructional program is aligned with the higher grade level’s standards.

In addition, students may challenge another benchmark when taking either/both Performance Assessments. Mathematics Problem Solving is assessed at the CIM level, grades 8 and 5, and at the level Below Benchmark 2. Writing is assessed at the CIM level, grades 7 and 4, and at a Benchmark 1 level.

Decisions about challenging another grade level are based on an individual student’s instructional program and are made student-by-student and subject-by-subject. This option is described in greater detail in the test administration manuals. Challenging another grade level or taking an Extended Assessment is not considered a modification.

Side-by-Side Assessments

Side-by-side assessments allow students to see test items in both English and another language. Each item appears with the English version on the left and the second language translation of the item on the right. These assessments are designed to minimize English language barriers while testing the Oregon content and performance standards and allowing students who are learning English as a second language to demonstrate what they know. Current assessment information for English Language Learners (ELL) can be found at the assessment ELL website:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=192>

2004-05 side-by-side assessments are available for:

- Mathematics Knowledge and Skills Test in Spanish/English (Standard Administration),
- Mathematics Knowledge and Skills Test in Russian/English (Standard Administration),
- Mathematics Problem-solving Test in Spanish/English (Standard Administration),
- Mathematics Problem-solving Test in Russian/English (Standard Administration),
- Below Benchmark 2 Mathematics Problem Solving (English; Spanish/English, Russian/English) and
- Writing Test in Spanish/English (Standard Administration if response is in English; Modified Administration if response is in Spanish).

An American Sign Language (ASL) Mathematics Knowledge and Skills Test is available.

Juried Assessment

A Juried Assessment is an option available to all students who have mastered standards in one or more content areas but are unable to demonstrate mastery at their grade level through state assessments. With this option, a student may submit a collection of evidence that demonstrates

mastery at the standard level for reading/literature, writing, mathematics, mathematics problem solving, and science. Juried Assessment provides an alternative for Oregon Statewide Assessments.

There are three options available to the student and his or her parent or guardian through the student's school district.

- First, the student may submit a Collection of Evidence in the selected content area for review by the Oregon Department of Education.
- Second, the student may submit a Collection of Evidence to support the request of a Juried Modification to a regular state assessment. If granted, the request would allow the student to use the modification as a standard administration for the state assessment in that subject. A parent and student can request a Juried Modification prior to testing or after the test has been administered. The jury panel will evaluate the conditions of the modification to confirm that the student's work demonstrates mastery.
- Finally, the student may submit a Proficiency-based Admission Standards System or PASS Transcript for a subject area as evidence of meeting the PASS standards, which then qualifies the student for meeting the CIM standards in that area.

Any student (seniors have priority) requesting a Juried Assessment must have the school district send an Intent to Submit form to ODE on or before the dates included in the 2004-2005 Juried Assessment Manual, or the testing schedule To download a complete Juried Assessment Manual, go to the ODE website:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=175>

Extended Assessment

Extended Assessments provide an alternative to the benchmark assessments for students performing well below Benchmark 1 in reading/literature, mathematics, and/or writing. They were developed so that some students with disabilities unable to take benchmark assessments could participate fully in the statewide assessment program. They are available to students with IEPs working toward the State Content and Performance Standards but performing well below Benchmark 1 in one or more subjects.

Currently there are four Extended Assessments:

- 1) The Extended Career and Life Role Assessment System (CLRAS), which extends the Career-Related Learning Standards and measures performance of living skills in the context of daily life routines,
- 2) Extended Reading, which measures emerging reading performance as a precursor to the Benchmark 1 reading/literature assessment,
- 3) Extended Mathematics, which measures emerging mathematics performance as a precursor to the Benchmark 1 mathematics assessment, and

4) Extended Writing, which measures early writing performance as a precursor to the Benchmark 1 writing expectations.

Scores are reported to students and teachers to provide feedback on performance. Students with high scores on the Extended Assessments in reading, mathematics, and/or writing should prepare to take the regular benchmark assessments in those subjects. For more detailed information, please go to the website at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=178>

Technology-Enhanced Student Assessment (TESA)

Technology Enhanced Student Assessment is a web-based computer testing opportunity that is available in participating schools for reading/literature and mathematics Knowledge and Skills assessment. TESA offers statewide assessments to all students enrolled in participating schools in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. Many test administration options described in this article are available through TESA. For a complete listing, consult the TESA Test Administration Manual available at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=194>

TESA offers students options not available through the paper/pencil assessment, including a flexible testing schedule, the opportunity to test more than once a year, and the ability to get immediate feedback regarding test results. While the system is not fully implemented, each year the participating number of districts and students is increasing.

TESA presents test items through an Internet connection on either a Macintosh- or Windows-based platform. With TESA, students take statewide assessments whenever they are ready to do so right in their own school and they can retest when they are ready. TESA eliminates test booklets, answer sheets, and other test materials. It provides immediate information about performance to teachers for newly enrolled students. For the latest information on TESA, please go to:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=164>