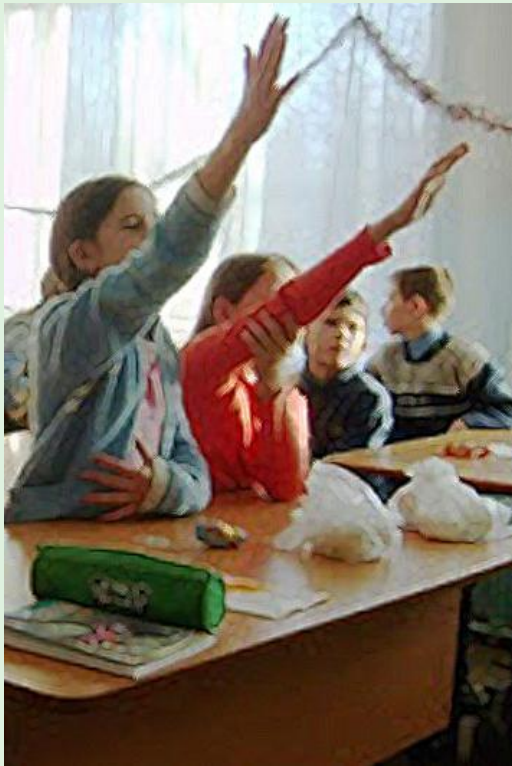




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IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD	
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NOVEMBER 10 – JANUARY 28	Report Validation Window for: Fall Membership 2014-15
NOVEMBER 17 – JANUARY 16	OAKS Extended Assessment Braille and Large Print Order Window
DECEMBER 9 – 19	2014-15 Kindergarten Assessment Preliminary Reports Review and Validation Window
DECEMBER 11 – JANUARY 12	Collection Window for: Second Period Cumulative ADM 2014-15
MID-DECEMBER	PSAT/NMSQT® Score Report Plus and AP Potential Delivered to Schools
<b>OFFLINE</b> → DECEMBER 15–29	OAKS Practice Tests Offline
DECEMBER 18 – FEBRUARY 2	Collection Window for: Staff Position 2014-15
<b>OFFLINE</b> → DECEMBER 19 – JANUARY 5, 2015	Online Reporting System Offline for Updates
JANUARY 6	OAKS Online Reports Available through the OAKS Portal ( <a href="http://oaksportal.org/">http://oaksportal.org/</a> ) <b>NEW</b>
JANUARY 6 – MARCH 13	OAKS Online Writing Performance Assessment Testing Window (Grade 12 only) <b>NEW</b>
JANUARY 6 – APRIL 15	English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) K-12 Testing Window <b>NEW</b>
JANUARY 6 – JUNE 12	OAKS Online Testing Window for Science, Social Sciences, and Grade 12 Retest in Reading and Math <b>NEW</b>
JANUARY 8	Preview of Final 2013-14 Dropout and Cohort Graduation Rate Reports <b>NEW</b>
JANUARY 8 – JUNE 13	Student Scores Available in Student Centered Staging and OAKS Online Reporting System for OAKS Science, Social Sciences, and Grade 12 Retest in Reading and Math <b>NEW</b>
JANUARY 13	Public Release of 2014-15 Kindergarten Assessment Results <b>NEW</b>
JANUARY 14 @ 2 PM	WebEx: Training for Student Centered Staging, Secure Assessment Reports, and AWE <b>NEW</b>

*We will pause our AA Update next week in honor of the holidays and release our next edition on January 8. Happy Holidays to you and yours!*



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### APPLICATION CLOSING: Professional Development Event: *Building Educator Assessment Literacy*

As a reminder, the application for *Building Educator Assessment Literacy*, a **free, two-day face-to-face professional development event with a five-week virtual learning extension opportunity**, must be completed by this **Saturday, December 20**. Please apply at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MVX5TM5>. Additional information about these events is included in the following PDF: [http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/teachlearn/testing/resources/beal\\_announcement\\_aa.pdf](http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/teachlearn/testing/resources/beal_announcement_aa.pdf).

Contact Cristen Mclean at [cristen.mclean@ode.state.or.us](mailto:cristen.mclean@ode.state.or.us) or 503-947-5842 with questions.

### 2015 State English Learners Alliance Conference

The third annual State English Learners Alliance Conference for 2015 will be held in March at the Eugene Hilton Hotel on the following dates:

**March 11:** Pre-Conference

**March 12-13:** Conference with keynotes: David Bautista, Dr. Virginia Collier, Dr. Wayne Thomas and Dr. Joyce Nutta.

COSA is currently requesting proposals for 60 Breakout Sessions of current topics, lessons learned, student success stories etc. Please consider submitting an RFP by **January 7, 2015** at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TWLMR7Q>. Additional conference information will soon be available at <http://www.cosa.k12.or.us/events/state-english-learners-alliance-conference>.

### Online Reporting System Trainings January 8 and 15

The Oregon Department of Education and the American Institutes for Research, Oregon's test vendor for the OAKS, ELPA, and Smarter Balanced Assessments, will offer two online trainings focusing on how to use the Online Reporting System (ORS). The first training will be on **Thursday, January 8** at 9:30 AM (PT) and the second training will be on **Thursday, January 15** at 3 PM (PT). The same material will be covered in both trainings. Log-in information for both training sessions is included below:

**Thursday, January 8, 2015, 9:30 am PST (1 hr)**

[Join WebEx meeting](#)

Meeting number: 923 927 377

Meeting password: training

**Join by phone**

**1-877-668-4493** Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada)

**1-650-479-3208** Call-in toll number (US/Canada) Access code: 923 927 377

**Thursday, January 15, 2015, 3:00 pm PST (1 hr)**

[Join WebEx meeting](#)

Meeting number: 926 193 330

Meeting password: training

**Join by phone**

**1-877-668-4493** Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada)

**1-650-479-3208** Call-in toll number (US/Canada) Access code: 926 193 330

These trainings are optional. However, new ORS users will find them useful for learning how to navigate ORS and find the information they want, and experienced ORS users will have the opportunity to learn about system enhancements for 2014-15. Please contact your [Regional ESD Partners](#) with questions.

## Test Administration

KATHLEEN VANDERWALL - MANAGER, TEST DESIGN & OPERATION

[www.ode.state.or.us/go/assessment](http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/assessment)

### Mac 10.10 Now Supported for Testing

On December 8, 2014, AIR released Secure Browser 7.2 for Mac 10.6 – 10.9 machines. The purpose behind releasing Secure Browser 7.2 was to address an issue with the text-to-speech functionality of the Mac 10.6 – 10.9 Secure Browser 7.0. ODE and AIR are pleased to announce that Secure Browser 7.2 is also compatible with the new Mac 10.10, released in October 2014 (after the May 1 deadline for supporting newly released operating systems). **This means that districts may now use Mac 10.10 machines with Secure Browser 7.2 installed to administer Oregon’s online assessments in 2014-15.** AIR has published an updated [2014-15 Support Plan](#) to the [OAKS Portal](#) to reflect this new addition.

### New Tech Check Document Now Available

ODE has posted a simple [Tech Check](#) document to <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=4300> to help districts answer the question, “Is your technology ready for testing?” This document briefly leads districts through the process of logging into the practice tests to confirm their technology is compatible with some key accessibility features such as text-to-speech, the new ASL videos, and listening and speaking functionality for the ELPA. As the start of the statewide test windows approaches, running through these test cases can help give districts confidence that their systems are ready.

### Grade 12 Retest Window Opens January 6

Grade 12 retest opportunities in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics will become available for eligible seniors starting on **Tuesday, January 6, 2015**. The items on the retest are taken from the pool of high school items that comprised the OAKS content area assessments last year.

These retests are available only for seniors who have not yet passed the state assessments in those content areas. Accessed through the [OAKS Portal](#), there will be three opportunities for reading and math, and only one for writing. The writing retest is available exclusively online (no paper version is available), with the administration window closing on **March 13** so that scores can be returned by the first week in April. The reading and mathematics retest windows close on **June 12**.

### REMINDER: Headsets for Listening and Speaking Items

In preparation for the opening of the Oregon ELPA testing window on **January 6, 2015**, ODE would like to remind districts that our test vendor, American Institutes for Research (AIR), keeps a small stock of ELPA-recommended headsets for district ordering. While these are available to districts through their pay-portal, there are very limited numbers in stock at any given time. If your district needs to order a large number of headsets, it may be necessary to order from a separate source than through our vendor. While ODE recommends the model provided by AIR, no district is required to use that specific make or model, and is allowed to order from any preferred source.

Of particular interest for 2014-15 is the debut of the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts (ELA) listening items, which will be included in the operational ELA assessment this year. While those listening items require headphones, the recommendation from Smarter Balanced is different from the ELPA headset requirements. **There is no requirement to use ELPA headsets for the ELA listening**



items, when earbuds or other basic headphones will work sufficiently. As always, districts are welcome to order the make and style that works best for the testing platform and specific machines that the district is using.

Districts should not order the ELPA headsets from AIR if their intended use is for the Smarter Balanced ELA assessment. The vendor only stocks enough ELPA headsets to meet the estimated demand for this year's ELPA window. If you have any questions, please contact your [Regional ESD Partner](#) for additional information.

## ■ ELPA

### 2014-15 ELPA Test Window Will Open January 6, 2015

The English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) window opens on **Tuesday, January 6, 2015**. This state assessment is required each year for all students eligible to receive Title III services. For additional information about the ELPA, please refer to the [Test Administration Manual](#).

In anticipation of the opening of the 2014-15 ELPA test window, ODE has the following reminders and recommendations:

- For each qualifying EL student, the LEP flag must be set to “yes” in the student’s SSID file and verified in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) in order for an ELPA opportunity to be presented to the student. Students will not be able to access the ELPA until this step has been done by the district.
- As districts and schools prepare to administer the ELPA, districts should check the computers being used for the ELPA to ensure all updates are installed and the computers are ready for the assessment. For example, the headset drivers may need to be updated in order for the technology to meet the testing system’s minimum requirements.
- Prior to logging a student in to the ELPA, TAs should review the internal volume on the computer and adjust as needed. Please review both the volume on the sound and the internal volume for the microphone. The test interface and the secure browser feature a new cog wheel for volume adjustments and the default is slightly louder than in past years. TAs should preview these settings prior to student arrival to ensure that the settings are at an acceptable level.
- ODE strongly recommends that all ELs are given the opportunity to practice in the ELPA environment using the practice test prior to the operational assessment. The practice test is especially helpful in helping districts to identify in advance any accessibility features that a student might need in order to successfully access the ELPA. School district staff and parents can try out the ELPA Practice Test using the Secure Browser, which can be downloaded at [www.oaksportal.org](http://www.oaksportal.org).
- Helpdesk staff are available to assist district personnel during the ELPA window. Contact your [Regional ESD Partners](#) with questions.

## ■ EXTENDED ASSESSMENT

Stay tuned for future articles

**KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENT****REMINDER: 2014-15 Kindergarten Assessment Preliminary Report Review**

Please report any discrepancies or errors about the 2014-15 Oregon Kindergarten Assessment (OKA) Preliminary Reports to [amber.helvie@state.or.us](mailto:amber.helvie@state.or.us) by **5:00 PM on December 19**. Statewide data will be released on **January 13, 2015**.

**CLOSING TOMORROW: Highlighting Teachers' Voices through the Kindergarten Assessment Survey**

Thank you to those Kindergarten Teachers and Instructional Assistants who have already responded to the Kindergarten Assessment (KA) survey. If there are teachers and IAs who administered the KA but have not yet taken the survey, please help us continue to improve Oregon's Kindergarten Assessment by taking a 10-minute survey:

[https://oregon.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_0BoJOeXjk9h4PWt](https://oregon.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0BoJOeXjk9h4PWt).

**The deadline to participate is tomorrow, December 19.**

Respondents have the option to submit an email address to be entered into a drawing for one of twenty-five \$50.00 gift cards.

**Kindergarten Content and Assessment Advisory Committee Updates**

The Kindergarten Content and Assessment Advisory Committee has been formed to make recommendations on the content of the Kindergarten Assessment and develop guidelines for Kindergarten Assessment report interpretation. The Committee convened for the first time on December 11 and will reconvene in January and February. Please contact Liz French at [liz.french@ode.state.or.us](mailto:liz.french@ode.state.or.us) with questions regarding this committee.

**2013-2014 Kindergarten Assessment "Look Back" Report Now Available**

The 2013-14 "Look Back" report is now available on the [Kindergarten Assessment Resources](#) page. This report shows the school, district, and state level results from the 2013-14 Kindergarten Assessment. This report was updated with new subgroups for data disaggregation based on the 2013-14 Third Period Cumulative ADM Collections data submitted in May of 2014 and validated in August of 2014. These additional subgroups are Economically Disadvantaged students, Limited English Proficient students, and Students with Disabilities. This report also contains the previously-reported Gender and Ethnicity student subgroups.

For questions related to the 2013-14 "Look Back" report, please contact Amber Helvie at [amber.helvie@state.or.us](mailto:amber.helvie@state.or.us).

## ■ SMARTER BALANCED

### New Classroom Activity Promising Practice Now Available

In response to requests from the field, ODE has posted a new promising practice on administering the Smarter Balanced classroom activity to <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=2444>. This document includes several promising practices that teachers and test administrators might consider when preparing to administer the classroom activity that supplement the administration guidelines found in *Section 6.3 Classroom Activity Administration Guidelines* of the [Test Administration Manual](#).

### School-Level Test Schedule Promising Practice Now Available

In response to requests from the field, ODE has posted a new promising practice on establishing school-level test schedules for Smarter Balanced to <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=2444>. This document includes promising practices that districts can use to help guide the establishment of their school-imposed test windows, as well as sample test schedules at grades 3 – 8 and high school that reflect the diverse circumstances facing Oregon schools.

Please note that these are just **examples** of how a school might approach establishing its local test window; however, there are many other configurations possible. ODE welcomes districts to submit additional sample test schedules that can be incorporated into future versions of this Promising Practice.

### District Technology Capacity Report Now Available

To further support our schools during Oregon's transition to the Smarter Balanced assessments, ODE recently administered a survey to collect information regarding our state's technology readiness. To help districts gauge their technology capacity relative to other districts and identify areas that may need bolstering prior to the start of the Smarter Balanced test window, ODE has posted the [results](#) of this survey to <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=4300>. In addition to summarizing district survey responses, the report includes a list of high-level recommendations and links to additional resources available to help districts prepare.

### Smarter Balanced Achievement Level Setting Video Now Available (REPEAT)



Smarter Balanced recently released a video highlighting the Achievement Level Setting process for the new assessments and featuring panelists from Oregon and other member states. The video is just over 8 minutes and is available through YouTube at [http://youtu.be/20q1EPU\\_dk4](http://youtu.be/20q1EPU_dk4). Please share with interested faculty and community members as well as post to relevant social media channels (if applicable) to encourage spread.

## ■ SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### OAKS Science and OAKS Social Sciences Testing Window Opens January 6

OAKS Science and OAKS Social Sciences will become available on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 and will close on June 12, 2015.

Yes, state science assessments (in our case, OAKS) are **required** in grades 5, 8, and once in high school per [ESEA, Title I Part A, sec. 1111 \(b\)\(3\)](#); [ORS 329.485](#); and [OAR 581-22-0610](#). Each student has two test opportunities for grades 3-8 and three annual test opportunities for high school.

OAKS Social Sciences is an optional test for students in grades 5, 8, and in High School. Each student has two annual test opportunities in social sciences.

#### Accessibility Supports

[www.ode.state.or.us/go/ExtendedAssessments](http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/ExtendedAssessments)

SARAH DRINKWATER – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, STUDENT SERVICES

### Grade 12 Writing Retest Available in Spanish

To clarify, as in past years, the Grade 12 Writing Retest remains available in Spanish for eligible EL students. The description of the “Administration of the Spanish/English writing prompts” designated support has been clarified in the [Oregon Accessibility Manual](#) to make this option explicit.

#### Essential Skills

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/EssentialSkills>

CRISTEN MCLEAN – ASSESSMENT POLICY ANALYST

### Stay tuned for future articles

#### Accountability Reporting

[www.ode.state.or.us/go/AsmtRpt](http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/AsmtRpt)

JON WIENS – MANAGER, ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING

### 2014-15 Test Records in Student Centered Staging

OAKS Online test records for Science, Social Sciences, and the Grade 12 retest in Reading and Math are available in Student Centered Staging beginning **January 8, 2015**. OAKS Online records will typically be available in Student Centered Staging two days after the student completes a test.

There will be a Student Centered Staging Training WebEx on **Wednesday, January 14** at 2 PM. This WebEx will focus on management of assessment data in Student Centered Staging (i.e., editing posted records; reviewing and correcting errors; applying administration codes) and accessing the test records in the AWE and Secure Assessment Reports 2.0 applications. If you do not have access to Student Centered Staging, AWE, or Secure Assessment Reports 2.0 applications, please contact your [district security administrator](#).



Accountability Warehouse Extract (AWE) application, used for downloading individual student, bulk or regional warehouse assessment data, will have 2014-15 data available beginning **January 29, 2015**. The Secure Assessment Reports 2.0 (SAR) application will also have 2014-15 reports available beginning **January 29**.

**Please note** that there is a one-day lag for changes to test records in Student Centered Staging (district edits or newly loaded records) to be available in the AWE and SAR applications.

Contact your [Regional ESD Partner](#) for more information.

## Future Assessment Development

DEREK BROWN – DIRECTOR, ASSESSMENT

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/assessment>

## ELPA21 Recruitment Continues



Oregon is continuing to recruit students for participation in the ELPA21 Field Test, which will debut on **February 2, 2015**. The ELPA21 Consortium States are focusing the final recruitment push on grades Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup>, although additional participants will be accepted in all other grade bands as well. Participating school staff will receive **Professional Development Units (PDUs)** when they participate in the administration training and administer the field test to a group of students. Additionally, districts that sign up a certain percentage of their EL population will receive **discounted attendance at 2015 COSA events**, including COSA's ELPA21 Invited Symposium in March 2015. The Symposium will be an opportunity in which administrators can come together to share experiences with the ELPA21 field test, including what worked well and what might need improvement.

To learn more about the ELPA21 Field Test and to register your class or school to participate, please visit [www.elpa21.org/fieldtest](http://www.elpa21.org/fieldtest). Registration will continue until **January 16, 2015**. If you have additional questions, please contact ODE at [ode.elpa21fieldtest@state.or.us](mailto:ode.elpa21fieldtest@state.or.us).