



## State tests and family rights

State Law requires that each Oregon school district notify families of their right to exempt (opt out) their child from the summative English language arts and/or math tests given this spring, including the Smarter Balanced and Extended Assessments. The state has created a form available at your school which families can use to opt their child out of the testing. For many years, the state has allowed families to refuse testing for their students based only on reasons of religion or disability. In the past session the legislature passed a law that parents could opt their children out of the summative English language arts and/or math tests, including the Smarter Balanced and Extended Assessments, without stating a reason.

The Smarter Balance Tests are mandated by the state and the content contained in the state forms and ODE Notice for Statewide Tests does not necessarily reflect the views of Portland Public Schools.

Parents/guardians who wish to opt out their child from state tests must inform their school office. The state form to opt out can be obtained at your school office or online: <http://www.pps.net/Page/1651>. If a family wishes to submit a letter or other documentation with a signature, the ODE form will be attached to the letter or other documentation to ensure the necessary information is included to properly identify the student who will not be testing. A student who is 18 years of age or over may opt himself or herself out of the test. Families can fill out the form to opt out their student at any time, but are encouraged to submit as soon as possible to allow schools to plan prior to the beginning of testing.

The purpose of the assessments is to allow school districts to evaluate how well students are learning the Common Core State Standards. The learning targets which make up the Common Core Standards can be found here: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=53>. Achievement level descriptors for the Smarter Balanced Assessments can be found here: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/scores/>. Results of the Smarter Balanced Assessments administered this spring are anticipated to be publicly available in September and can be found here: <http://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Pages/Assessment-Results.aspx>

The Smarter Balanced Test may be administered beginning March 12, 2018 in PPS schools, but each school determines when testing will be done in their building. For specific testing dates for your child, please contact the school. The Smarter Balanced Assessments are untimed tests, and the approximate class time a student is anticipated to spend testing is eight hours. Some students may spend less or more time, depending on their individual progress through the assessment.

The new law only applies to summative English language arts and/or math tests, including the Smarter Balanced and Extended Assessments. If families wish to exempt their child from the science, social science, or ELPA tests, it must be based on reasons of religion or disability. The form for these tests may be obtained from the school office or here: [www.pps.net/Page/1651](http://www.pps.net/Page/1651). The form must be signed and returned to the school office.



**2017-18 Parent Request for Exemption from the  
 Oregon Science assessments and/or  
 English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA21)**

**Oregon House Bill 2655, The Student Assessment Bill of Rights, allows parents to excuse students from state summative English language arts and mathematics tests by completing a state-provided form and submitting the completed form to the student’s school district. This form only applies to the Science and English language proficiency assessments.**

*Under Oregon Administrative Rule 581-022-1910, parents may request that their student be exempted from taking the OAKS Online Science and/or ELPA21 tests to accommodate a student’s disabilities or religious beliefs. To best support school planning, **please complete and submit this form to the school office before the school begins testing.***

Student’s Legal Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Legal First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Enrolled Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s School: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am requesting that my student be exempt from the following assessment(s) for the 2017-18 school year:**

- Science (OAKS Online or Extended version; only given at grades 5, 8, and 11)
- English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA 21)

**Indicate your reason for requesting this exemption (one or both boxes must be checked):**

- Religious reasons
- Disability reasons

Parent/Guardian\* (signature) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Adult students (age 18 and older) may sign on their own behalf and do not require a signature by a parent or guardian.

Parent/Guardian or Adult Student (printed name) \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL USE ONLY**

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Scan and email to [TestingHelp@pps.net](mailto:TestingHelp@pps.net)*

*It is the school’s responsibility to ensure that students with approved exemptions are not tested in exempted subjects.*

### ALL STUDENTS GRADUATE PREPARED

In 2010, Oregon adopted higher K-12 standards in English Language Arts and Math to ensure all students move from grade to grade with the academic knowledge and skills necessary for success beyond high school. Because we raised the bar for what we expect students to know and be able to do, we have also changed the way we measure student progress through our state tests, known as Smarter Balanced.

#### How much time do the tests take?

The tests are not timed, so your child can take as long as he or she needs to fully demonstrate what he or she knows and can do. With our current exams, your child only tests once each year, unlike our previous exams which many students took multiple times. Learn more about the estimated time your child may take to complete the tests on page 35 of Oregon's Test Administration Manual:

<https://tinyurl.com/TestAdmManual>

#### What do the results mean and where do I get my child's results?

Test results identify your child's strengths and areas for improvement in English Language Arts and Math. Each subject will be broken into categories and will show how well your child performed in each area. The tests measure student learning on a continuous scale. The state has set four achievement levels along this scale that generally describe where students are. Your school will share your child's scores with you at the beginning of the next school year to help support your child's success as he or she moves from grade to grade.

#### Why does participation matter?

While no single test can give a complete picture of your child's progress, having your child take the statewide tests provides educators and administrators with information about what educational approaches are working and where additional resources are needed. Your child's participation is important to ensure schools and districts receive the targeted resources they need to help all students succeed.

#### When will my child take the test?

Your child will be tested once after he or she has completed at least two-thirds of the school year. Your child's school will determine the specific dates your child takes the tests within the statewide testing window above.

### OREGON'S STATE TESTS:

- **Challenge your child to think critically** and apply his or her knowledge to real-world problems
- **Go beyond multiple choice** and ask your child to explain his or her answers
- **Act as a snapshot of your child's progress** and may be considered along with other pieces of information to determine your child's academic success
- **Help identify schools and districts** that need additional supports to ensure more students are meeting higher standards

### STATEWIDE TESTING WINDOWS

Smarter Balanced English Language Arts &  
Math Tests

February 6 – June 8, 2018

Oregon Extended Assessments for English  
Language Arts & Math

February 15 – April 26, 2018

### STAY INFORMED

**Talk to your child's teacher or school principal if you have questions or want to learn more.**

#### Resources

To learn more about what your child should know and be able to do in English Language Arts & Math:

<http://tinyurl.com/ELARoadmap> & <http://tinyurl.com/MathRoadmap>

To view sample test questions: <http://tinyurl.com/ORPracticeTests>

To read more about your child's test results: <http://tinyurl.com/ORTestResults>

## DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

House Bill 2655 permits parents and adult students\* to annually opt-out of Oregon's statewide summative tests in English Language Arts and Math by submitting this form to the school the student attends. The school shall provide any student who is exempted from a state test with supervised study time while other students are testing. Visit this link to learn more about House Bill 2655: <http://tinyurl.com/OR-HB2655>.

**To opt-out of state tests, this section must be completed by the parent/guardian or adult student:**

Student's Legal Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Legal First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Enrolled Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student's School \_\_\_\_\_

Student's ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate the state test(s) you are opting out of for the 2017-18 school year:**

	English Language Arts
	Mathematics

To best support school district planning, you are encouraged to submit this form **to your child's school** by February 1, 2018. For students who enroll after the statewide testing window begins on February 6, 2018, you are encouraged to submit the form within 2 weeks of enrollment. This form is only valid for the 2017-18 school year. Parents and adult students are required to submit an opt-out form annually should they wish to be exempted from statewide summative tests.

**I understand that by signing this form I am opting my child out of testing.**

Parent/Guardian\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*(signature)*

Parent/Guardian\* \_\_\_\_\_  
*(printed name)*

\*Adult students (age 18 and older) may sign on their own behalf and do not require a signature by a parent or guardian.