



# Board of Education Informational Report

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** 11/25/15

**To:** Members of the Board of Education  
Superintendent Carole Smith

**From:** Amanda Whalen, Chief of Staff  
Sarah Singer, Senior Director of System Planning and Performance  
Mary Anderson, Senior Manager of Educational Measurement and Assessment

**Subject:** Opt-Out Information

---

Oregon House Bill 2655, The Student Assessment Bill of Rights, allows parents/guardians 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 school district.

Attached please find the state-provided form for opting out (attachment A) as well as the one-page Notice of Statewide Tests provided by the Oregon Department of Education (attachment B) that must accompany the opt out form.

At Tuesday's board meeting, staff would like direction from the Board on two issues:

- 1) Does PPS create and provide any additional materials to accompany the opt out form and notice (e.g. a family advisory)?
- 2) Because HB 2655 only covers some assessments, staff has prepared our own opt out form for the Oregon Science Assessment and/or English Language Proficiency Assessment (attachment C). Does the Board have any feedback on this form?

As always, please let us know if you have any questions.



# 2015-16 Opt-Out Form

### 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 ID Number \_\_\_\_\_ Enrolled Grade \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Please indicate the state test(s) you are opting out of for the 2015-16 school year:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	English Language Arts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mathematics

To best support school district planning, you are encouraged to submit this form to your child's school no later than February 1, 2016. For students who enroll after the statewide testing window begins on February 9, 2016, you are encouraged to submit the form within 2 weeks of enrollment. This form is only valid for the 2015-16 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 may lose valuable information about how well my child is progressing in English Language Arts and Math. In addition, opting out may impact my school and district's efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning.**

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) \_\_\_\_\_

**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 new 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: <http://tinyurl.com/TestAdminManual>.

**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 4-point scale. 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 9 – June 10, 2016

Oregon Extended Assessments for English Language Arts & Math  
February 18 – April 28, 2016

**STAY INFORMED**

Talk to your child's teacher or school principal if you have questions or want to learn more. Patience and persistence will be required to help our students and schools continue towards success.

**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 results: <http://tinyurl.com/ORTestResults>



**2015-16 Parent Request for Exemption from the  
Oregon Science Assessment and/or  
English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA21)**

**TEST EXEMPTION CHANGES FOR 2015-16: Oregon House Bill 2655, The Student Assessment Bill of Rights, was recently passed into law and goes into effect January 1, 2016. Part of this bill 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 OAKS Online Science and ELPA21 testing to accommodate a student's disabilities or religious beliefs. This form must be signed and returned to the school office by March 1, 2016, to allow schools to plan prior to the beginning of testing. If a student is enrolled in a PPS school after March 1, 2016, and wish to exempt their child, they are encouraged to complete this form and submit to the school office within two weeks of enrollment.*

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

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

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

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

**I am requesting that my student be exempt from the following assessment(s) for the 2015-16 school year:**

- Science (OAKS Online or Extended version, only given at grades 5, 8, and 11)
- English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.*