



October 23, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter is in regards to the Smarter Balanced Assessments, Extended Assessment (the alternative state assessment), the ELPA21 (English Language Proficiency Assessment), and the Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) and Alternative SEED (Alt-Seed) Surveys. I wanted to take a moment to provide some important information about state tests.

SOESD classrooms (STEPS CARE, STEPS Plus, and Family Solutions classrooms) will administer Smarter Balanced and Extended assessments between February 4 – June 13, 2025. ELPA21 will be administered January 14 – April 11, 2025.

We know that an end-of-the-year test cannot possibly tell us *everything* about your child's academic progress. However, the results do act as a snapshot of your child's strengths and areas for improvement and can be used as a way to ensure they are getting the supports they need. Additionally, the tests help our efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning. When fewer students take the test, we are left with an incomplete and inaccurate picture of how our students are performing, and this limits our ability to address issues, better serve students, and continue to improve our educational system.

Should you wish to opt your child out of **English/Language Arts and/or Mathematics for the Smarter Balanced or the Extended Assessments**, please complete the attached form and return to your student's teacher prior to each testing start date. The form can also be found at <https://www.soesd.k12.or.us/for-parents/> and click on the link at *24-25 30 Day Notice and Opt Out Form*.

In addition, if you wish to opt your child out of the **Smarter Balanced Science and/or Social Studies, Extended Assessment Science, or the ELPA21**, please **submit a letter** to your child's teacher stating you wish to exempt your child from that specific test based on either disability or religion. The opt out form is not available for Science and Social Studies.

The **Student Educational Equity Development Survey (SEED)** and Alternative SEED Survey will help the Oregon Department of Education gather information about the educational experiences of students in Oregon. This information will help ODE to develop appropriate resources and supports for districts in Oregon, and better target those resources and supports where they are most needed. The SEED Survey will also help ODE better interpret information we are already gathering through statewide testing. The SEED and Alt-SEED Surveys gather data from students statewide, in grades 3-11. The content of the survey varies by grade level. The survey measures student perceptions in four core constructs: Access to learning resources, Opportunity to learn, Self-efficacy, and Sense of belonging. The middle and high school versions of the survey also include questions pertaining to extracurricular engagement and career and technical education. High school versions of the survey further include questions around post-graduation planning. Teachers will complete the Alt-SEED Survey on behalf of their students who take the Extended Assessment.

If you wish to opt your child out of the SEED or Alt-SEED Survey, please complete the attached form and return to your student's teacher prior to February 4, 2025. The form can also be found at <https://www.soesd.k12.or.us/for-parents/> and click on the link *24-25 Annual Notice of SEED Survey and Participation Form*.

Scott Beveridge, Superintendent | www.soesd.k12.or.us | 541-776-8590 | **Main Office:** 101 N Grape St, Medford, OR 9750

5465 S Pacific Hwy
Phaenix, OR 97535

2685 Foothills Blvd
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

550 SW 6th St Suite E
Grants Pass, OR 97526

1021 NW Highland Ave
Grants Pass, OR 97526

90 NW Glenhart Av
Winston, OR 97499



At SOESD, we are deeply committed to ensuring each and every student in our schools has the supports they need to achieve at high levels and graduate prepared for their next steps. Our ultimate goal is to make sure that all students are set up to be successful from grade to grade and that will remain the focus of our district throughout the rest of the school year.

If you have general questions or want more information about the Smarter Balanced Assessments, Extended Assessments, or the ELPA21, I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher(s). I am also available to answer any questions you may have at susan_peck@soesd.k12.or.us or at 541-776-8590 x3180.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Peck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Peck
District Test Coordinator, Special Education Services