

Extended Assessments Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

2017-18

1. What is the Extended Assessment?

The Oregon Extended Assessment (ORExt) is Oregon's alternate assessment based on alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS), which is a statewide assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities (SWSCD). Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams first decide whether or not the general assessment is an appropriate assessment option based on the Oregon Department of Education's (ODE's) eligibility criteria and the student's specific needs.

2. What is the Oregon Observational Rating Assessment (Orora)?

The ORora provides instructional and functional information for teachers and parents in the domains of access skills in the areas of attention, basic math concepts, and communication (expressive and receptive), for SWSCD who are not able to access the academic demands of the ORExt, despite the provision of extensive supports and test design features founded in the concepts of universal design for assessment.

Additional information is posted on ORExt Training and Proficiency website at <https://or.k12test.com/>.

3. Why should a student take the ORExt?

As with any accountability assessment, one of the main functions is to provide the federal government with a snapshot of the patterns of student progress toward state content standards. While an accountability assessment is aligned or linked to grade level content standards, the assessment does not present a complete picture of everything a student has learned or is learning in a classroom during the course of the year. Among other things, an accountability assessment is an indicator from states that informs the federal government that students are being challenged with and exposed to critical content. Outcomes from these assessments show that students are being provided an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, in general. While the implications at a student level may be relatively small, the implications for schools, districts, or states are broad enough to potentially impact all students.

4. Where can I find information about Extended Assessments?

Information about the ORExt is provided on this web page:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=178>.

There is also information available in Section 11.0 of Oregon's current Test Administration Manual (TAM) at

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=486>.

ORExt testing materials for students, when available, are accessible through the ORExt Application on the ODE district secure website. Availability is limited by the assessment administration period.

5. Where can I find the ORExt Assessments?

Authorized users, such as Qualified Assessors (QAs) of the ORExt, may log in to the District secure web site: <https://district.ode.state.or.us> to download the paper/pencil version of the assessment. The online tablet-based administration is supported by a testing application. Information regarding how to access the new ORExt testing application is published in the Updates section on the website.

6. What considerations are important for IEP teams when making decisions about which ORExt format (paper/pencil, online tablet-based, or large print/Braille) suits a student best?

In general, we expect that at least 80% of SWSCD in Oregon should be able to access the tablet administration, with varying levels of support from Qualified Assessors. QAs will need to provide varying levels of support, depending upon student needs. In general, students who are deaf, have a visual impairment that would limit access to information presented on a small tablet screen, blind, deaf/blind, or whose behaviors may not allow them to safely interact with a tablet administration should participate in the paper/pencil versions of the assessment. Students who use Braille should be administered the Braille version (contracted/uncontracted) and students with visual impairments that require larger print in order to access test content should take the Large Print version of the assessment.

Commonly Asked Questions Related to the ORExt Training & Proficiency Testing

GENERAL

1) Question: How will ORExt Qualified Trainer (QT) trainings be conducted this year?

Answer: As in previous years, individuals who were QAs last year and have permission by their district to become a QT this year will be trained by ODE staff. QTs will train, support, and oversee the training of qualified individuals (e.g., licensed and/or certified teacher, school psychologist, et al.) who have permission from their district to become QAs and those who were QAs last year and re-qualify to serve in this capacity this school year.

2) Question: I have heard about the ODE regional trainings. Who are the regional trainings for?

Answer: The ODE regional trainings are intended for individuals changing status from QA to QT. These individuals served as QAs last year and have the necessary permission from their district to become QTs. New and returning (re-qualified) QTs are responsible for training incoming and returning QAs this year.

3) Question: I was trained last year as a QT or QA. Do I need additional training this year if I just want to retain my status?

Answer: Individuals trained last year who plan to retain their status this year should read the specific questions regarding online refreshers. Previously trained individuals must re-qualify each year by accessing the online training system, reviewing updated information, *and* passing the refresher proficiency assessment.

4) Question: I trained last year. I plan to simply update online. Is the system clear enough and sufficiently self-explanatory so I can do this on my own?

Answer: System updates have been made so that the sequence of steps for independent users are clear and straightforward. If you encounter questions while re-qualifying online, contact your district or ESD QT for more specific guidance or follow the contact information in the online system to the appropriate helpline.

5) Question: How long will the online update and refresher proficiency test take me?

Answer: The refresher proficiency assessment has been designed to take under two hours. Actual user time will vary from 30 minutes to approximately 2 hours. This depends in part upon whether the test is passed on the first attempt.

6) Question: When will the online training system be available so that I can re-qualify?

Answer: Individuals who were trained last year should be able to access the ORExt online training system for updates and take the refresher proficiency test by November 1 of each school year.

7) Question: Will there be a test?

Answer: Yes, proficiency assessment(s) are a requirement of this system for all new (four proficiency tests: Administration, ELA, Math, & Science) and returning (one refresher test) QAs and QTs.

8) Question: Last year I attended a live training but did not finalize my status by taking a proficiency test through the online system. Will I be able to refresh and update within the online system this year?

Answer: Unfortunately, the online training site only retains the names of those individuals who completed the training process by reviewing the updates and passing the proficiency test within the training timeframe (November - April). Individuals who began the online training, but did not finish, will need to coordinate with a current Qualified Trainer to be retrained as well as review the "Updates" and complete and pass the four proficiency tests (Administration, ELA, Math, & Science) on the training website (<http://or.k12test.com/>).

RETURNING QUALIFIED TRAINERS (QTs)

9) Question: I am a QT who was trained last year, but I would prefer a live training, what do I do?

Answer: QTs who would prefer to attend a live training may do so by registering for one of the five ODE regional trainings scheduled for November. Note: You would still need to access the online training site, review the "Updates" and pass the refresher proficiency test to retain your QT status this year.

10) Question: I was a QT last year and intend to retain my status for this year. When should I start advertising in my district that I have re-qualified as a QT for the current school year?

Answer: Please start advertising as soon as you have reviewed the updates, passed the online refresher proficiency test, and have received confirmation from the system that you have re-qualified. Note: Please coordinate your efforts with your District SPED office so that they may inform interested individuals of your status as a QT.

RETURNING QUALIFIED ASSESSORS (QAs)

11) Question: I am a QA who was trained last year, but I would prefer a live training, what do I do?

Answer: QAs who would prefer to attend a live training this year may do so by registering for one of the live trainings scheduled by a QT in their area (after November 1). Watch for district dissemination of this information. To determine who is a QT in your area, contact your district office or ESD.

12) Question: I plan to retain my status as a QA, but I know my QT from last year is no longer with my district. Once the online training site is up and running, who will update my status in the system once I review the updates and pass the refresher proficiency test online?

Answer: The online training system will automatically update returning QAs and QTs once they have reviewed the updates and passed the refresher proficiency test online. These individuals will not need to wait for a QT to update their status in the system. **NB:** The system uses the label of “Assessor in Training” for all registered new and returning QAs and QTs in the system until they pass their respective required number of proficiencies.

NEW TO THE SYSTEM OR DO NOT KNOW STATUS

13) Question: Who is a Qualified Assessor (QA)?

Answer: Educators who are trained in the process of administering the ORExt to students are referred to as Qualified Assessors (QAs).

14) Question: Who is a Qualified Trainer (QT)?

Answer: Educators who are trained to administer ORExt as well as to train others in the administration of these assessments are referred to as Qualified Trainers (QTs).

15) Question: What if I received statewide training prior but did not re-qualify last year?

Answer: Due to ongoing developments and/or changes related to the ORExt and to the online training system and database each year, if this was the last training you attended, you will need to attend the appropriate training hosted by a current QT in your area. You will need to receive training as a QA to gain an understanding of the current format, administration, and scoring of the current version of the ORExt as well as review the “Updates” and complete and pass the four proficiency tests on the training and proficiency site.

16) Question: I trained last year, but I do not know my status (am I a QT or am I a QA?). What do I do?

Answer: If you served as a QA or QT last year you are registered on the online training system. Once you pass the online refresher proficiency, the system will automatically upgrade your status indicating you are qualified to once again serve this year.

17) Question: I have had no prior training in the ORExt, but would like to be a QA this year. What do I do?

Answer: In order to become a QA, licensed and/or certified staff (e.g., teachers, school psychologists) will need their district's permission to proceed and attend a local training hosted by a current QT in their region. The QT will be undergoing their own qualifying or re-qualifying beginning this October, and will begin to advertise and provide trainings locally thereafter. Check with your district's SPED director's office or ESD to find out who is a QT.

18) Question: I would like to be a QT, but was not a QA last year, what should I do?

Answer: Any individual interested in becoming a QT must have been a QA in the prior school year.

19) Question: I am eligible to be a QT and understand my district's training needs based on communication with my district office. Which training should I attend?

Answer: Contact the ODE regional trainings host site nearest you. Your District or ESD has been provided funding to train a certain number of QTs. Be sure to coordinate with your District or ESD office for the specifics related to your ESD/District/School.

20) Question: Where can I find information regarding QA or QT training?

Answer: Information regarding training for QAs and QTs can be found under the "Training" icon on the ORExt website:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2689>.

DISTRICTS

21) Question: What can districts do now to prepare?

Answer: Identify the individuals who served as QTs last year and determine their intent to be QTs this year. Begin to assemble names of individuals who were QAs last year who may be appropriate to attend the trainings to become QTs this year. Determine your district's assessment needs for the ORExt and identify individuals who may be interested in becoming QAs and provide supports to QTs who are conducting the trainings. Coordinate and provide for substitute needs as necessary.

22) Question: Where do QTs register for the live ODE regional trainings or webinars?

Answer: QTs will register with the appropriate host site for the live trainings. No registration will occur through ODE. To participate in the WebEx trainings will visit the webinar post, register, and receive an email with the required access

information and instructions. NOTE: To participate in a training via WebEx , trainers will need access to a computer with internet capacity as well as a phone.

23) Question: What kind of funding support can districts expect?

Answer: Funding support for these trainings will be provided by ODE to each district and ESD at a level similar to last year.

CONTACT

24) Question: Where can I go for more information?

Answer: Contact Brad Lenhardt at Brad.Lenhardt@state.or.us or (503) 947-5755.