

Framework for Organizing Around Assessments

Your input matters!
Parents and
teachers are
leading the way.
Contact us for more
organizing tools for
your school.

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OEA is building a coalition and leading the way toward building a system of assessment that guides instruction and improves student learning. With your support, we are making real progress together (see Policy Solutions).

Oregon educators have a better way! Instead of spending millions of dollars on standardized tests, we should be investing in schools to give every child the opportunity to succeed. That means smaller class sizes, access to art, music, P.E., and other valuable programs. It also means creating and implementing a system of assessment that guides instruction, helps teachers understand where each student is excelling and where they need more support.

This is where you come in! We need your help to raise awareness of the new policies in place and the work that's being done to improve assessments in Oregon. Let's get members, parents, and the public engaged in demanding a system of assessment that actually improves student learning.

Take these
3 important steps
to organize around
assessments.

STEP ONE: Start the Conversation

Your stories can make a difference in real policies.

- Ask your colleagues and fellow educators to share their experiences.
 - How much time do they spend prepping students to take state and district-mandated standardized tests?
 - What would they do with the classroom time currently spent on standardized tests?
 - Ask them to share examples of classroom based assessments (formative and/or interim) and how those assessments are used to guide instruction.
- Ask parents if they are aware of the state summative assessment (i.e. Smarter Balanced Assessment) and what concerns they have.

STEP TWO: Build Awareness

- Share the new policies in place on opting out, student policies, and the Student's Assessment Bill of Rights.
- Include an article about this issue in your local association newsletter. Use the message points in this Assessment Organizing Toolkit or visit the Parents & Teachers website for content.
- Host a screening of the film "Standardized" for colleagues, parents, and the community.
- Plan a community meeting to educate your colleagues and parents about the issue.
- Ask colleagues and parents to answer sample Smarter Balanced Assessment questions and share their reaction.

STEP THREE: Call to Action

- Ask supporters to add their name to the Parents & Teachers Together Statement of Principles (www.parentsandteacherstogether.com).
- Recruit teachers, school leaders, students, and parents to participate in the new task forces and community town halls around the implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and begin planning at the local level.
 - Pass a School Board Resolution urging the local district, state, and federal lawmakers to provide the time and resources necessary to develop a reliable system of assessments, and fund meaningful professional development and classroom investments to allow students to succeed.

If you are going to provide information to colleagues and parents about opting out you should research your local district policies and procedures. You should also review the FAQ provided in this tool kit — "Opting Out of Standardized Tests."