

Extended Assessments FAQs

1. What is the Extended Assessment?

The Extended Assessment is Oregon's alternate assessment which is a statewide assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. IEP teams first decide whether or not the general assessment is an appropriate assessment option based on a student's specific needs.

2. Why should a student take the Extended Assessment?

As with any accountability assessment, one of the main functions is to provide the federal government with a snapshot 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. 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.

3. Where can I find information about Extended Assessments?

Information about Extended Assessments is on this web page: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results?id=178>. There is also information available in Part VIII of Oregon's Test Administration Manual at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=486>. Extended Assessment testing materials for students, when available, are accessible through the Extended Assessment Application on the ODE district secure website (<https://district.ode.state.or.us/>). Availability is limited by the assessment administration period.

4. Where can I find the Extended Assessments?

Authorized users, such as Qualified Assessors of the Extended Assessment, may log in to the District web site at <https://district.ode.state.or.us/apps/login/>. Extended Assessment will be listed on the approved application list if you have access to it.

Commonly Asked Questions Related to the Extended Assessment Training for 2011-2012

GENERAL

1) Question: How will Extended Assessment trainings be conducted this year?

Answer: As in previous years, individuals who were Qualified Assessors last year and have permission by their district to become a Qualified Trainer this year will be trained by ODE and state-level staff. Qualified Trainers will train, support, and oversee the training of individuals who have permission from their district to become Qualified Assessors and those who were Qualified Assessors last year and re-qualify to serve in this capacity this school year.

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

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

3) Question: I was trained last year as a Qualified Trainer or Qualified Assessor. 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 Qualified Trainer 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: This has been designed to take under two hours. Actual user time will vary from 30 minutes to approximately 2 hours.

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 Extended Assessment online training system for updates and take the refresher proficiency test after October 19th. Notification of the site's availability will be

posted prior to its opening under the "Training" icon on the Extended Assessment website (at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2689>).

7) Question: Will there be a test?

Answer: Yes, proficiency assessment(s) are a requirement of this system for all new (5 proficiency tests) and returning (1 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 Qualified Trainer to be retrained as well as gain access to the updates and proficiency tests (5) on the training website.

RETURNING QUALIFIED TRAINERS

9) Question: I am a Qualified Trainer (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: In addition to the training you will need to access the online training site and pass the refresher proficiency test to retain your Qualified Trainer status this year.

10) Question: I was a Qualified Trainer last year and intend to refresh and retain my status for this year. When should I start advertising this information in my district?

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 Qualified Trainer.

RETURNING QUALIFIED ASSESSORS

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

Answer: QAs previously trained, but who would like a live training this year, would attend one of the live trainings scheduled by a QT in their area (after October). 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 Qualified Assessor, but I know my Qualified Trainer 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 Qualified Assessors and Qualified Trainers once they have reviewed the "Updates" and passed the refresher proficiency test online. These individuals will not need to wait for a Qualified Trainer 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 MY STATUS

13) Question: Who is a Qualified Assessor?

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

14) Question: Who is a Qualified Trainer?

Answer: Educators who are trained to administer Oregon's Extended Assessments 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 Oregon's Extended Assessments 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 Qualified Trainer in your area. You will need to receive training as a Qualified Assessor to gain an understanding of the current format, administration, and scoring of the current version of the Extended Assessments.

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

Answer: If you served as a Qualified Assessor or Qualified Trainer last year you are registered on the online training system. And, 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 Extended Assessments, but would like to be a Qualified Assessor this year. What do I do?

Answer: In order to become a Qualified Assessor, you will need your district's permission to attend a local training hosted by a current Qualified Trainer in your region. The Qualified Trainer who will be training you 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 Qualified Trainer.

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

Answer: Any individual interested in becoming a Qualified Trainer must have been qualified as a Qualified Assessor in the prior year.

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

Answer: Contact the host site most convenient for you based on your location. Your District or ESD has been provided funding to train a certain number of Qualified Trainers. 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 Extended Assessment website (at <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 Qualified Trainers last year and determine their intent to be Qualified Trainers this year. Begin to assemble names of individuals who were Qualified Assessors last year who may be appropriate to attend the trainings to become Qualified Trainers this year. Determine your district's assessment needs for the Extended Assessments and identify individuals who may be interested in becoming Qualified Assessors and provide supports to Qualified Trainers who are conducting the trainings. Coordinate and provide for substitute needs as necessary.

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

Answer: Trainers 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