

2025-2026 OSTP FAQs

- **Why is OSDE changing its state assessments?**
 - The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) is transitioning from customized state assessments to offering a list of approved, commercial off-the-shelf (OTS) assessments for Grades 3–8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for summative state assessments. This change is intended to:
 - Improve cost efficiency at the state level;
 - Provide districts with greater flexibility and local control by allowing them to select from a list of vetted, high-quality assessment vendors;
 - Enable access to standards-aligned benchmark assessments, providing teachers with more timely and actionable data;
 - Promote instructional coherence between interim and summative assessments.
- **When will this change go into effect?**
 - This change will go into effect for the 2025-2026 school year.
- **When will the testing windows occur?**
 - Assessment windows will align with the traditional Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) windows—typically April through May. Specific vendor testing windows must also align with the state’s reporting and accountability timelines.
- **Can districts select more than one vendor per subject?**
 - No. Each district must select one approved vendor for ELA and one for Mathematics per grade span (3-5; 6-8) to ensure consistency of data and simplify reporting and reimbursement processes.
 - Districts will need to select a benchmark assessment vendor by December 1st, 2025.
- **What vendors will be approved?**
 - OSDE anticipates approving [ELA assessments](#) that are already authorized under the Strong Readers Act and [mathematics assessments](#) from vendors approved for state benchmark use.
 - All vendors must undergo a rigorous review process to ensure:
 - Alignment with Oklahoma Academic Standards;
 - Compliance with ESSA’s technical criteria for summative assessments;
 - Capacity to report required data at the student, school, and district levels.





- **Will OSDE contract directly with the vendors?**
 - No. Districts will be responsible for contracting directly with their chosen vendors. This allows districts to customize their package by including additional services (e.g., tutoring, diagnostics, or digital platforms). OSDE will reimburse districts for the cost of the end-of-year summative assessment only.
- **How will districts submit reimbursement requests?**
 - Reimbursement requests will be submitted via the Grants Management System (GMS). Further guidance on documentation and allowable costs will be provided by OSDE prior to implementation.
- **How will assessment results be reported?**
 - Vendors will provide:
 - Student-level, school-level, and district-level reports;
 - Timely and secure data delivery that meets state reporting requirements.
 - Districts will be responsible for submitting results to OSDE through their Student Information Systems (SIS) to support accountability, reporting, and federal and state compliance.
- **How will performance levels be determined?**
 - As required by §70-1210.508, the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability (CEQA), under the guidance of the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (OEQA), will establish statewide performance levels by subject and grade. Performance level descriptors will be developed to maintain consistent expectations across vendors.
- **How will scores from different vendors be made comparable?**
 - OSDE will work with a third-party psychometric vendor to conduct score concordance studies across the approved assessments. This process will ensure that student performance is comparable across districts, regardless of the vendor used, as required by ESSA for state accountability systems.
- **How will accountability targets be set for subgroups?**
 - Using the results of the concordance study, OSDE and its third-party vendor will recommend aligned subgroup targets and growth models to ensure valid and equitable accountability determinations across all assessments. These will be submitted to CEQA for adoption.
- **How will writing be assessed?**
 - OSDE is currently evaluating vendors that can provide a writing assessment component for Grades 5 and 8 ELA. More information will be provided once appropriate vendors are identified and approved.

