

April 9, 2021

Oregon Trail Families,

Typically, by this time each year, you've heard from your child's school about their state assessment schedule. However, this year, most Oregon districts put testing on hold while waiting for guidance from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

ODE requested an assessment waiver for this school year from the US Department of Education (USDOE) due to the impact COVID-19 has had on teaching and learning. The USDOE denied the request but approved an amended proposal on April 6. Based on the amended proposal, ODE is now asking districts to administer selected state assessment tests this spring.

In a regular school year, the state tests are an essential measure of student achievement. But given the limited time we've had with students this year, we will not be able to provide an equitable opportunity for all children to test. In addition, we do not believe this is the best use of anyone's time and it would in fact create greater disparity among students. The tests take a significant amount of time to prepare for and administer – time that should be spent this spring working to ensure all students are on track academically and emotionally.

In fairness to all of our students, parents, and teachers, Oregon Trail School District is not participating in the 2020/2021 state assessments.