



## Ohio Assessment Pilot (OAP) Newsletter March 15, 2013

ODE is committed to transitioning to the next generation of assessments for the 2014–2015 school year, and an important part of that transition is ensuring districts are prepared for online testing. Last spring, ODE made a Grade 8 Social Studies Online Assessment Pilot (OAP) opportunity available, and this spring, ODE will be making a similar opportunity available for elementary schools.

In May 2013, schools and districts will have the option of participating in the OAP for Grade 4 Social Studies. The purpose of the OAP is to provide educators, administrators and students with an opportunity to experience online testing. Participation in the pilot will be voluntary and limited to public and community schools that have participated in the Spring 2013 Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA) administration and grade 4 students who have a Statewide Student Identifier (SSID).

ODE will collect and use information related to the implementation of the OAP to inform the development of Ohio's next generation of assessments. Additional details related to the pilot, including an overview of procedures, technology requirements, schedules, documents, links, and software, will be made available on the Online Pilot Portal ([ohsspilot.portal.airast.org](http://ohsspilot.portal.airast.org)) on April 1.

### Why Is ODE Conducting the OAP?

By offering this pilot, ODE is providing its districts and schools the opportunity to determine their readiness for the next generation of assessments and testing students online. District Test Coordinators (DTCs) and Building Test Coordinators (BTCs) will

- become familiar with processes, procedures and technology that are part of an online assessment;
- have the opportunity to interact with an online testing environment and preview newly developed technology-enhanced items;
- identify whether district and school resources, such as hardware and software, are sufficient to support student testing sessions.

### Who Can Participate in the OAP?

Participation in the OAP is optional and will be limited to public and community schools that have participated in the Spring 2013 OAA administration and grade 4 students who have a Statewide Student Identifier (SSID).

### How Do I Indicate My School's or District's Intent to Participate?

Districts and schools that elect to participate *do not need to submit an intent to participate form, nor do they need to call or email to sign up*. DTC contact information and active districts and schools from the Spring 2013 OAA will be used to populate accounts for the OAP. Any public district or community school that intends to participate may do so by pre-identifying students in the TIDE system for the OAP ([ohsspilot.tide.airast.org](http://ohsspilot.tide.airast.org)). TIDE for the OAP opens on April 8. DTCs should upload Pre-ID data for the grade 4 students who will participate. Districts should follow the Ohio Student Pre-Identification File layout that is used for OAA to prepare their Pre-ID files for the OAP. Note that the Pre-ID window for the OAP will be open throughout the duration of the administration. This means that DTCs can add new students who will participate in the OAP at any time. These newly added students will be able to test immediately after their information is submitted to TIDE.

### What Steps Will Participating Districts Need to Complete?

Districts that choose to participate will need to complete a series of steps. More information about these steps will be available prior to the launch of each system for the OAP:

1. Upload grade 4 student Pre-ID data to TIDE for the OAP for participating schools.
2. Add district- and school-level users to TIDE for the OAP.
3. Download and install the secure browser on each machine to be used by a student for testing.
4. Provide training to Test Administrators using the materials available on the OAP Portal.

## What Are the Key Dates for the OAP?

April 1	Online portal opens
April 8	Secure browser available for download
	TIDE for the OAP opens
April 23	Online practice test opens
May 6–May 31	Online Ohio Assessment Pilot test window open

## Which District- and School-Level Users Will Be Available for the OAP?

The following user roles will be available for the OAP:

1. District Test Coordinator (DTC)
2. District Administrator (DA)
3. Building Test Coordinator (BTC)
4. Test Administrator (TA)
5. Information Technology Coordinator (ITC)

DTC contact information from the Spring 2013 OAA will be used to populate accounts for the OAP, and ITC accounts will be available based on the district-ITC relationships established for OAA. The other user role accounts must be created by the DTC or a designee of the DTC. Not all tasks will be available for all users, and school-level users will be restricted to their buildings. More information on each user role will be available when the OAP Portal launches the first week of April.

## What Types of Questions Will Be Used on the OAP?

The OAP will be comprised of multiple-choice and technology-enhanced questions. The technology-enhanced questions will be interactive and will demonstrate ODE's intent to use different approaches to assessing students.

## How Much Time Will Be Needed to Complete the OAP?

The OAP is an untimed test. For planning purposes, ODE recommends that schools schedule one hour for the administration, which includes the time needed to set up the test session and help students log in (about 15 minutes) and the time students will need to complete the questions (about 45 minutes). The pilot test will contain no more than 20 test items.

## How Will Test Administrators Proctor the OAP?

Test Administrators (TAs) will use the TA Interface, accessible from the OAP Portal, to oversee testing sessions. No student can test until the TA has set up a test session using the interface. The interface also provides information about the progress of each student's assessment.

## Will the OAP Be Offered to Accelerated Testers?

The OAP is for students who are enrolled in grade 4. Students who are accelerated to grade 4 in social studies cannot participate in this pilot.

## What Accommodations Will Be Offered for IEP or ELL Students?

Although online testing can offer increased accessibility for IEP and ELL students, the pilot will use only a small subset of these built-in technologies. OAP accommodations will be limited to the ability to change the zoom level on the screen to make the text and images larger and to change the background color to improve the screen's contrast for students who have difficulty reading black text on a white screen. There will be no other online system accommodations.

Districts will have the option of providing other non-built-in accommodations to IEP and ELL students who meet the criteria for allowable accommodations. Some examples of these accommodations include extended time, use of a dictionary (ELL only), a read-aloud performed by a test administrator, grammar/spell checkers (IEP only), whisper phone (IEP only) and ear plugs (IEP only).

## Will Results Be Provided for the OAP?

Official student score results (downloadable scores posted, score reports printed, aggregate district/building reports, and interactive data) will not be provided for the Grade 4 Social Studies OAP. Scores for this pilot will not be reported in EMIS. Immediately after the student has completed the OAP he or she will be given a raw score only. The student score should not and will not be used in any official capacity.

**What Is the Secure Browser?**

The OAP will be administered through the secure browser, which will be available for download from the portal beginning April 8. District and/or school personnel will need to download and install the secure browser on each computer that students will use for online testing. The secure browser creates a secure connection to the online testing server and prevents the student from accessing any other programs on the computer. This must be completed before pilot testing starts.

**Survey and Feedback**

Students who participate in the pilot will be asked a series of survey questions at the end of their testing session. Additionally, a survey will be available for district and school personnel. These surveys are specific to the OAP and are independent of other surveys on technology and online testing. The feedback is important and will be used to plan the processes and procedures for Ohio's next generation of testing. Please look for more information about the surveys in future communications.

**How Can I Get Additional Information About the OAP?**

As the pilot approaches, additional information will be distributed to DTCs via OAP newsletters and email blasts. On April 1, an online testing portal will be available for schools and districts to access all reference documents and links related to the May OAP.

**Whom Should I Contact Regarding the OAP?**

If you have additional questions about the OAP, please contact the Ohio Help Desk at 1-888-944-5001 or [ohhelpdesk@air.org](mailto:ohhelpdesk@air.org), or Paula Mahaley in the Office of Curriculum and Assessment at 1-614-466-0217 or [Paula.Mahaley@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Paula.Mahaley@education.ohio.gov).