



YONCALLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

P.O. Box 568 • Yoncalla, OR 97499

Telephone: (541) 849-2158

Fax: (541) 849-2121

February 15th, 2023

Dear Yoncalla School Families,

Each Spring, students in Grades 3-8 and 11 participate in the Oregon State Assessment System or OSAS with the Smarter Balance Assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science (Grades 5/8/11 only), and the English Language Proficiency Assessments for students in Grades K-12 receiving English Language Development services.

In Yoncalla Schools, we already use assessments such as DIBELS, EasyCBM, and HMH Benchmark Testing. These assessments, in addition to our daily work in the classroom, help guide instruction and gauge student progress throughout the year. These assessments are great for our day to day work, but they do not allow us to compare the progress of our students to others outside of Yoncalla. The Oregon State Assessments is the best available tool to help our schools and district, compare our performance with others across the state and nation.

State Testing is a priority for all districts in Oregon. Districts are tasked with having 95% of students participate and unfortunately, if we do not, we could risk losing federal funding.

While we wish all students would participate in the OSAS, we respect a family's right to opt their student(s) out of State Assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics for any reason. Exemption requests for other State Assessments like the Science or Extended Tests, must be due to religious beliefs or a disability. The opt-out form and exemption request can be found on each schools' website under the "State Testing" section and in the front office of your student(s) school. An exemption request is approved by the building principal and a meeting may be requested to review the application.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me or your student(s) principal (Erin Helgren – Yoncalla Elementary, Don Hakala – Yoncalla High). You can reach me at 541-849-2175 ext 3115 or chelsea.ross@yoncalla.k12.or.us.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Ross
Dean of Students