

Reading Proficiency/Drivers Licensure Requirements FAQ:

What are the approved alternate reading tests for 8th grade reading proficiency?

The list of approved alternate tests, along with cut scores, is posted to our website.

Who can administer an alternate test?

Public schools, accredited private schools, career tech sites, and colleges/ universities have been explicitly approved to administer these tests in the Oklahoma statute. Other sites have been approved through the SDE, and the list is on our website. Should other places wish to become an approved alternate site, they must fill out an application and submit to the SDE.

Can districts charge students for administering an alternate reading test to them?

Districts must give the first alternate reading test to students for free. Then districts may charge up to \$25.00 for each additional alternate reading test.

Can districts get reimbursed for giving alternate tests if they give ALL students the STAR reading test (or other approved test) anyway because of district policy?

No. The reimbursements are for students who: have failed the OSTP ELA test *or* are not enrolled in a public school to take the OSTP ELA tests. Districts who give an approved test because they have a policy in place to screen students' reading levels cannot count these administrations for reimbursements.

Now that the OSTP Grade 8 ELA test integrates Reading and Writing, do students have to pass the whole test or just the Reading section?

Students must earn a Proficient score on the whole Grade 8 ELA test.

A homeschooled student needs to take an alternate test. Can they take an OSTP test? What should they do?

Homeschooled students can take an approved alternate test at the district in which boundaries they live. Districts *must* administer alternate tests to persons under 18 regardless of enrollment status. Districts may then claim these tests on their reimbursement. However, districts cannot provide documentation that the student meets enrollment status. The parent/guardian can sign a document at Department of Public Safety (DPS) regarding enrollment.

A student not enrolled in the district (i.e. private school, drop-out, etc.) wants to take an alternate test at a district's site. What does the school have to do?

As long as the person lives within the district boundaries, districts *must* administer alternate tests to persons under 18 regardless of enrollment status. Districts may then claim these tests on their reimbursement. However, districts cannot provide documentation that the student meets enrollment status. The parent/guardian can sign a document at DPS regarding enrollment.

A student is on an IEP. Does he/she still have to pass the reading test to get a driver's license?

Students on IEPs *for reading specifically* must meet the goals as outlined on the IEP. If the student satisfactorily demonstrates these goals have been met, then the school must provide documentation to the student to take to the DPS.

A student lives in Oklahoma but attends school out of state (this is usually because of living close to the border and/or family member works at a school in another state). Can the other states' test count for the alternative test?

Potentially. The student or parent/guardian will have to submit the test to the SDE for a confirmation letter. Then the SDE must verify that the test results meet a comparable Proficient score from a Grade 8 (or higher) ELA test. The SDE has 30 days to respond in writing to the request. If this timeline is not amenable to the student, then he/she can take an alternate test at an approved site or take an alternate test at the district in which they live.

A student has moved to Oklahoma after taking a Grade 8 Reading test in another state. What does the student need to do in order to get his/her driver's license?

The student or parent/guardian will have to submit the test to the SDE for a confirmation letter. Then the SDE must verify that the test results meet a comparable Proficient score from a Grade 8 (or higher) ELA test. The SDE has 30 days to respond in writing to the request. If this timeline is not amenable to the student, then he/she can take an alternate test at an approved site or take an alternate test at the district in which they live.