

Reading Proficiency/Driver Licensure Requirements FAQ:

My student was in the 8th grade in spring of 2020, and did not get to take the 8th grade reading/ELA test due to COVID. What will he/she need to do to receive a driver's license/permit?

Due to the cancellation of state assessments during the Spring 2020 testing window, the Oklahoma State Board of Education adopted an emergency rule on March 25, 2020, to allow the state to provide a medical exemption for state testing. Therefore, no scores are available for the Spring 2020 administration. This waiver allows districts to provide proof of reading proficiency for all students who were enrolled in Oklahoma public schools in Grade 8 during the 2019-2020 school year.

What documentation should my student bring to the DPS to obtain an Oklahoma driver license or permit?

Students will need to provide DPS with documentation from their schools stating:

- they have met the reading proficiency requirements
- they are currently enrolled in a public or private secondary school

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. In addition, schools can access the Grade 8 Alternative Reading Assessment via the Wave.

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 Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), and the list is available on our website.

Should other places wish to become an approved alternate site, they must fill out an application and submit to the OSDE.

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 schools be reimbursed for giving alternative reading tests?

In lieu of reimbursement, the OSDE has developed the Grade 8 Alternative Reading Assessment, provided at no cost to schools. Schools may download this test from the Single Sign-On system in the Wave.

Now that the Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) Grade 8 English Language Arts (ELA) test integrates Reading and Writing, do students have to pass the whole test or just the Reading section?

In order to meet driver licensing requirements, students must earn a score of Basic or better on the entire OSTP Grade 8 ELA Assessment. A score of Basic or better is considered satisfactory reading ability at the 8th grade level and satisfies the legal requirements of Section 6-107.3, Title 47, of the Oklahoma statutes.

A homeschooled student needs to take an alternate test. What should he/she do?

Homeschooled students can take an approved alternate test at the district in which they reside. Districts *must* administer alternate tests to persons under 18 who reside in their district, regardless of enrollment status. 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 should the school do?

As long as the person lives within the district boundaries, districts *must* administer alternate tests to persons under 18, regardless of enrollment status. 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 *specifically for reading* 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 OSDE for a confirmation letter. Then the OSDE must verify that the test results meet a comparable satisfactory score from a Grade 8 (or higher) ELA test. The OSDE 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 OSDE for a confirmation letter. Then the OSDE must verify that the test results meet a comparable satisfactory score from a Grade 8 (or higher) ELA test. The OSDE 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 who wants to get a motorcycle license hasn't taken the OSTP Grade 8 ELA Assessment. What should he/she do?

A student who wishes to apply for a motorcycle license may take an alternative reading test, even if that student hasn't taken the OSTP Grade 8 ELA Assessment.

How often can schools administer alternative reading tests?

Schools may only administer the Grade 8 Alternative Reading Assessment available on the Wave to students ONCE per quarter. However, schools may administer other approved tests as often as they wish. Schools are required to test students who have not met 8th grade reading proficiency at least four times per year.