

Procedures and Information on Parental Exclusion from PSSA/Keystone Exams **Based on Chapter 4 Rules:**

Chapter 4 of Title 22 of the Pa. Code (22 Pa. code 4.4) provides for the right of any parent/guardian to excuse their child from the state assessment if, upon inspection of the testing materials, they find the assessment to be in conflict with their religious beliefs. This is the only basis for a parent/guardian to excuse his or her child from the statewide assessments.

- At least two weeks prior to each testing window, assessments will be available for review by parents and guardians. The assessment must be reviewed on district property and district personnel must be present at all times. Districts must provide a convenient time for the review. This may include an evening review time, if requested. Proper security and confidentiality of the assessment must be maintained at all times.
- Parents and guardians must sign the Parent Confidentiality Agreement. A copy of this must be locally maintained. Parents and guardians may not photocopy, write down, or in any other manner record any portion of the assessments, including directions.
- If after reviewing the test parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious beliefs and wish their student(s) to be excused from the test, the parents/guardians must provide a written request to the Superintendent or Chief Executive Officer that states the objection.
- If the student is excused from the assessment due to parental or guardian request, school personnel must provide an alternative learning environment for the student during the assessment.
- Please be aware that students who do not participate in the assessment due to parental request will negatively affect the school's participation rate and can potentially have a negative impact on the school's accountability status.

Sources:

2016 Pennsylvania Department of Education

2016 Handbook for Assessment Coordinators DRC Customer Service 1-800-451-7849

<https://pa.drccdirect.com>