

## Chapter 4 Guidelines for Parent Opt Out from State Assessments

Section 4.4 of Title 22, Chapter 4 provides for the right of any parents/guardians to excuse their child from state assessments 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 which a parent/guardian can excuse his/her child from the statewide assessments.

In compliance with this statute, parents/guardians are required to follow the process below when requesting their child be excluded from statewide testing:

- Two weeks prior to the testing window, parents/guardians should contact the child's school to request to review the statewide assessment in question. The school will schedule a convenient time for the review to occur in the presence of district personnel.
- Parents/guardians must sign the Parent Confidentiality Agreement, which will remain on file with the school. By signing the agreement, parents/guardians agree not to photocopy, write down, or in any other manner record any portion of the exams, including directions. Parents/guardians also agree not to discuss the contents of the test they review with any other individuals.
- If, after reviewing the test, parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious beliefs and wish to request that their child be excluded from the assessment, the parents/guardians must submit a written request to the Superintendent stating their objection.
- Upon receipt and review of the request, parents/guardians will be notified of the decision regarding their request.

This process must be completed for each assessment and for each child for which parents/guardians wish to submit a religious objection to the child participating in a statewide assessment. Because the process, as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), requires a review of the actual assessment, a general exemption from all assessments across all grades and subjects cannot be requested by a parent/guardian.

In accordance with the guidance provided by PDE, any student in the Class of 2020 and beyond who is excused from the Keystone Exams for religious reasons, must complete Project-Based Assessments (PBA) in order to satisfy the graduation requirement of attaining proficiency. Therefore, any student in the Class of 2020 and beyond who is excused from a Keystone Exam for religious reasons will be enrolled in the appropriate Project-Based Assessment course and be required to attain proficiency on the PBA in order to graduate.

[Board Policy 6142 - Exemption from Instruction and State Assessments](#)

[Administrative Regulation 6142 - Exemptions from State Testing](#)

[PA Education Code Title 22, Section 4.4.\(d\).4](#)

[Project-Based Assessment FAQ \(Item 10\)](#)