



The Academy State Assessment Opt-out Policy

Pursuing Truth, Wisdom, Excellence

Mission Statement: The Academy serves our students to develop college ready, exemplary citizens by promoting excellence in academics, character and relationships.

Background

State and federal law requires Academy students take standardized assessments in the instructional areas of English language arts, math and science. State law also requires students take standardized assessments in the instructional area of social studies. Accordingly, the Academy shall administer standardized assessments pursuant to these state and federal legal requirements.

State law also requires charter schools to adopt policies and/or procedures concerning parent requests to opt-out or exempt students from participating in CMAS and PSAT/SAT assessments. This policy represents the Academy's process to address this requirement.

Parent/guardian request for exemption

The parent/guardian of a student enrolled in The Academy may request that his or her child be exempt from participating in one or more state assessments.

A parent/guardian who wishes to exempt his or her child shall follow the following process:

1. The request for exemption must be submitted in writing to the school principal.
2. The parent/guardian will not be required to state the reason for asking for the exemption.
3. The request for exemption may apply to all or specific state assessments administered to the student during the school year.
4. A request for exemption will be valid for one school year. Requests for exemption from state assessments in subsequent school years require a new written request.
5. Parents/guardians are encouraged to submit their requests for exemption at the earliest possible date each school year so that the school may plan accordingly.

In accordance with state law, the Academy **shall not** impose a negative consequence upon a student whose parent/guardian has requested an exemption from a state assessment or assessments; however, the number of students that "opt-out" of state assessments may have a negative impact on the school's accreditation with the state and the school's access to other state and federal programs.

This policy's exemption process shall apply only to state assessments and shall not apply to other Academy classroom assessments.

Information to parents/guardians

Each school year at the earliest possible time, the district shall distribute information to students' parents/guardians regarding the state and district assessments that the district will administer that year. This information shall also be posted on the district's website.

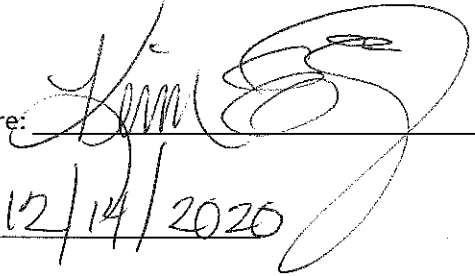
NOTE 1: The information distributed to parents/guardians must include: (1) the state assessments that the school will administer during the school year; (2) whether the assessment is required by federal law and/or state law; (3) the "anticipated" calendar for administering state assessments; (4) the "purposes" of the state assessments; and (5) the "manner" in which the results will be used by the district and the Colorado Department of Education. C.R.S. 22-7-1013(7)(a).

All other Academy Board policies will remain in full force. All discrepancies between this policy and others shall be brought to the attention and resolved by the CEO or designee. At all times, The Academy will follow current state and federal guidelines.

POLICY HISTORY

This policy supersedes any previously existing policy of The Academy of Charter Schools pertaining to the content herein.

Board Chair Signature: _____



Date of Adoption: _____

12/14/2020

LEGAL REFS.:

C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (1) (*district academic standards*)

C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (8) (*policy and procedure required to allow parents to excuse their children from participation in state assessments*)

C.R.S. 22-11-101 et seq. (*Education Accountability Act of 2009*)