



## The Academy Assessment Mode Testing 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

The Academy Board believes that students will respond more positively to the opportunity for success than to the threat of failure. The school shall seek, therefore, in its instructional program to make achievement both recognizable and possible for students. Increased student achievement drives the strategic goals of the Academy and shall be emphasized in its processes of evaluating student performance.

State and federal law requires Academy students to take standardized assessments in the instructional areas of English language arts, math and science. READ Act assessments, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade preparatory exam, 11<sup>th</sup> grade college entrance exam, and ACCESS are **not** included in this policy. State law also requires students to 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 the use of pencil and paper on the computerized portion of state assessments and parent requests to excuse their children from taking state assessments. This policy and the accompanying Parent State Assessment Opt-out Policy represent the Academy's processes to address these requirements.

### Testing option

The Academy's default testing mode for state assessments will be administered online, unless otherwise noted.

The Academy may determine that a specific classroom or group of students within the school will use pencil and paper to complete the computerized portions of a state assessment. Factors that will be considered in making this determination include:

- the technological capacity and resources of the particular classroom;
- students' previous experience with computerized and written assessments;
- whether the instructional methodology of the particular classroom or group is consistent with the use of computerized assessments or written assessments; and
- the logistics of administering the state assessment in different formats to the particular classroom or group.

Prior to making this determination, the Chief Executive Officer or designee shall consult with the level principal(s) affected by this determination as well as parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school.

For students with disabilities, the use of pencil and paper instead of a computer to complete a state assessment shall be determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, in accordance with applicable law.

### **Parent/guardian request for exemption**

A parent/guardian who wishes to exempt his or her child from a particular state assessment or assessments shall make this request in accordance with the Academy's Parent State Assessment Opt-out Policy.

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.

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

### **Sharing of student state assessment results with parents/guardians**

The Colorado Department of Education is required to provide diagnostic academic growth information for each student enrolled in each public school based on the state assessment results for the preceding school years. This information shall be included in each student's individual student record. Appropriate school personnel, including those who work directly with the student, shall have access to the student's state assessment results and longitudinal academic growth information and shall share with and explain that information to the student's parent/guardian.

### **The Academy assessment strategy**

In addition to the state assessment system, the Academy has developed a comprehensive assessment strategy that:

- challenges students to think critically, apply what they have learned and gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge;
- includes "early warning" features that allow problems to be diagnosed promptly to let students, teachers and parents/guardians know that extra effort is necessary;
- provides reliable and valid information on student and school performance to educators, parents/guardians and employers; and

- provides timely and useful data for instructional improvement and improved student learning, including feedback useful in determining whether the curriculum is aligned with the school's academic standards.

In accordance with applicable law, the Academy's assessment strategy shall accommodate students with disabilities and English language learners.

The Academy's assessment results, in combination with state assessment results, will be used as the measurement of student achievement. It is believed these results will provide reliable and valid information about student progress toward the Academy's academic strategic goals.

LEGAL REFS.:

C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3 (1)(d) *(district must report to CDE the number of students who will take the state assessment in a pencil and paper format)*

C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3 (8)(a) *(policy required to ensure explanation of student state assessment results)*

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

C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (6) *(policy required regarding the use of pencil and paper on state assessments)*

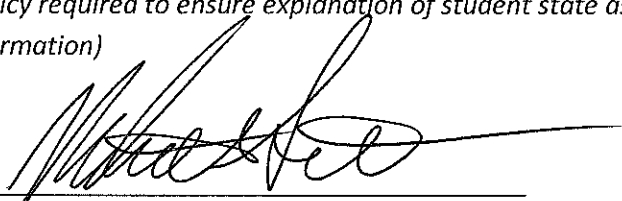
C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (8) *(policy and procedure required to allow parents to excuse their children from participation in state assessments)*

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

C.R.S. 22-11-203 (2)(a) *(principal required to provide educators access to their students' academic growth information "upon receipt" of that information)*

C.R.S. 22-11-504 (3) *(policy required to ensure explanation of student state assessment results and longitudinal growth information)*

Board Chair Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date of Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_

9/25/17