

## **STATE PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS - REGULATION**

Colorado Springs District 11 (the District) values the partnership we have with parents/guardians in educating students. A student's parent/guardian may excuse the student from participating in one or more of the state assessments administered pursuant to C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3.

### **Parent or guardian assessment excusal**

Parents/guardians who wish to excuse a student out of an assessment should notify the school principal. (see Exhibit ILBB-E, State Standardized Assessment Excusal Form).

A student who is excused from an assessment will not receive a score for that assessment. Excusing a student from a state assessment will not negatively affect a student's grade, nor will it affect the opportunities students have for participation in a full range of academic programs and services. However, standardized test scores are frequently used to determine placement in advanced courses/programs and to identify specific instructional needs of students. If a student does not take the annual state assessments, no scores will exist to support these decisions, so parents/guardians will need to work closely with educators to ensure that students have access to everything they need to be successful.

If a parent/guardian excuses his or her student from participating in a state assessment, the District shall not impose negative consequences, including prohibiting school attendance, imposing an unexcused absence, or prohibiting participation in extracurricular activities, on the student or on the parent/guardian.

The District will not impose an unreasonable burden or requirement on a student that would discourage the student from taking a state assessment or encourage the student's parent/guardian to excuse the student from taking the state assessment.

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

### **Pencil and paper testing option**

State law also allows for the use of paper and pencil on any state required assessment. The District may recommend the use of paper and pencil rather than computer-based assessments for specific tests and grade levels. State law requires that parents/guardians be included in the decision making process. Therefore, school administrators will advise parent/guardian representatives of the process to request paper versions of state assessments. The District will default to computer-based assessments if no request is received before the Colorado Department of Education's required determination date. The District Accountability Committee will bring any recommendations for use of paper/pencil to the Administration.

This request does not affect specific accommodation needs for individual students. 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.

### **Assessment Calendar**

Each fall semester, the District shall distribute an assessment calendar and related information to parents/guardians per C.R.S. 22-7-1013 to inform them about the state and District assessments that the District plans to administer during the school year.

Adopted September 9, 2015  
Revised January 9, 2019

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-7-102 (2)(b)  
C.R.S. 22-7-406  
C.R.S. 22-7-409  
C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3  
C.R.S. 22-7-1013  
C.R.S. 22-11-101  
C.R.S. 22-11-203(2)(a)  
C.R.S. 22-11-504(3)  
C.R.S. 22-32-109.5

CROSS REFS.: GCS, Professional Research and Publishing  
ILBA, District Program Assessments  
ILBB, State Program Assessments  
ILBB-E, State Standardized Assessment Excusal Form  
JLDAC, Screening/Testing of Students  
LC, Research Projects, Studies, Experiments and Surveys