



HUTTO ISD
School Support

Brittany Swanson
Associate Superintendent, Instruction and
Innovation

February 5, 2024

To: Hutto ISD Stakeholders
From: Brittany Swanson, Associate Superintendent, Instruction and Innovation
Subject: Standardized Test Exemptions

Hutto ISD is aware that some parents have voiced concerns about their children participating in standardized testing, specifically state mandated STAAR assessments, and have inquired about the corresponding laws. While we are empathetic with the concerns expressed, standardized testing is required in the Texas public school by the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) program set out in Texas Education Code chapter 39 and 19 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 101. By law there is no option to opt-out of standardized testing for students; every school district in Texas is bound by law which states that “every student receiving instruction in the essential knowledge and skills shall take the appropriate criterion-referenced assessments.”

More specifically, Texas Education Code, Sec 26.010, Exemption from Instruction states:

(a)...A parent is not entitled to remove the parent’s child from a class or other school activity to avoid a test or prevent the child from taking a subject for the entire semester. (b) This section does not exempt a child from satisfying grade level or graduation requirements in a manner acceptable to the school district and the agency.

All students who are in attendance on assessment dates- or dates within TEA provided assessment windows- will be given the appropriate state assessment(s) as mandated by law. If the student chooses not to complete the assessment, the assessment must still be submitted for scoring. If students are absent the entire week of the state assessment window, the students’ assessments will be marked to reflect their absence from school. However, please keep in mind that if a student is absent for a reason other than those listed in District policy for which a student may be excused, then an unexcused absence must be recorded for that student. The law requires the district to file paperwork with the court for any student with 10 unexcused absences within a six-month period, or three or more unexcused absences within a four-week period. An unexcused absence includes days or parts of days.

Students enrolled in high school courses are responsible for end-of-course exams in core subject areas that count for graduation requirements. Students must pass the five end-of-course exams (English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and US History) or an acceptable substitute to graduate. State assessment results can also allow parents to monitor their child’s progress from year to year and provide valuable information on performance relative to others in the school, district, and state.

For parents who believe that standardized tests place undue pressure on their student(s), we encourage you to meet with your child’s school counselor to develop solutions tailored to your child’s needs.



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We appreciate the passion you have for your child's education. If you have any questions regarding state assessment, please do not hesitate to contact your child's principal, campus team, or Hutto ISD School Support.

Sincerely,

Brittany Swanson
Associate Superintendent, Instruction and Innovation

