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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Notice

Standardized testing is required in Texas public schools by the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or "STAAR," program set out in Texas Education Code Chapter 39 and 19 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 101. State law makes it clear that **students may not "opt-out" of standardized or any other tests.** Texas Education Code section 26.010 states the following:

Sec. 26.010. Exemption from Instruction
(a) A parent is entitled to remove the parent's child temporarily from a class or other school activity that conflicts with the parent's religious or moral beliefs if the parent presents or delivers to the teacher of the parent's child a written statement authorizing the removal of the child from the class or other school activity. **A parent is not entitled to remove the parent's child from a class or other school activity to avoid a test** or to prevent the child from taking a subject for an 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.
Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Dallas Independent School District Testing Programs EK (Regulation)

All eligible students present at school on a STAAR test date must be included in the test administration. Campus officials must submit a score code for every student, in accordance with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) test administration guidelines.

For a student enrolled in grades 3-8, who is present during the state STAAR test administration and chooses not to test, the test will be coded with an "S" for "score," as required by the state. The student will receive a raw score of zero and the lowest possible scale score for the grade/subject.

For a student taking a STAAR EOC assessment for the first time, who is present during the state test administration and chooses not to test, the test will be coded with an "S" for "score," as required by the state. The student will receive a raw score of zero and the lowest possible scale score for the grade/subject.

For a student taking a STAAR EOC assessment retest in April, May, or December, who is present during the state test administration and chooses not to test, the test will be coded with an "O" for "other," as required by the state. The student will not receive a score but the submission of the score code will document a test was not completed.

For a student taking a STAAR EOC assessment retest in June, who is present during the state test administration and chooses not to test, the test will be voided and not be submitted to the state for scoring.

If a student is absent during the entire state test administration, the student will be marked absent. Such designation does not impact the school or the Dallas Independent School District regarding performance calculations but will impact participation rates on the test.

Additionally, the student will be referred to the school Accelerated Learning Committee (ALC), as defined in HB 4545, for an initial determination of whether to move forward with promotion or require the student to receive additional instruction to monitor student progress. While a student's performance on a state assessment is not directly tied to grade promotion, **a student's score on an applicable state assessment must be considered as a factor in promotion.** Texas Educ. Code § 28.021(c).

Any student who does not participate in state-mandated assessments at the request of his or her parent or guardian will not be subject to disciplinary action.

Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Form
Although there is no legal right to opt-out of state-mandated assessments, should a parent/legal guardian refuse to allow their child to participate in state-mandated testing, the attached form may be used to submit their refusal notice. Please note that this form is NOT required. Parent/Guardian may instead submit their request via written letter. The form and/or parent/guardian letter should be maintained on campus with assessment documents for five years. In addition, a copy should be sent to TCSupport@dallasisd.org.

See the Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Form on next page.

Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Form

This form can be used in lieu of a parent/guardian letter. Please clearly print the following information and return to your school's principal.

Student's Name _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Campus _____ Student's Grade Level _____

As the parent/guardian of the above-named student, I refuse my child's participation in:

_____ State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness **(STAAR grades 3-8)**
_____ STAAR End-of-Course **(STAAR EOC)**
_____ STAAR Alternate 2 **(STAAR ALT 2)**
_____ Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System **(TELPAS/TELPAS Alternate)**

** Please see the TEA and district testing calendars for testing dates. **Some exams are administered over a two-week testing window. Please note that the TELPAS administration is a five-week window.**

My reason for this decision is (parent/guardian may attach additional items to this document):

_____

_____

_____

_____

My signature indicates that I have read and acknowledged the information listed below:

- State assessments are mandatory for students enrolled in Texas public schools.
- Satisfactory performance on the STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) assessments is a requirement for graduation.
- If a student is present on the day of the test, the school will be obligated to offer the test to the student.
- If a student is present and refuses to take the STAAR 3-8 tests or an initial STAAR EOC, then the test will be coded with an 'S' for score. Students will receive a raw score of "zero" on the assessment and the lowest possible scale score for the grade/subject.
- If a student is not present on the day of testing, their test will be coded with an 'A' for absent.
- Any student who does not participate in state-mandated assessments at the request of their parent/guardian will not be subject to disciplinary action.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date _____

Signature of Campus Principal: _____ Date _____

Principals: This form and/or parent/guardian letter should be maintained on campus with assessment documents for five years. In addition, a copy should be sent to TCSupport@dallasisd.org.

Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Campus Guidance

Under Texas law, school districts are not authorized to offer an exemption to the state-mandated testing requirements. Standardized testing is required in Texas public schools by the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or "STAAR," program set out in Texas Education Code chapter 39 and 19 Texas Administrative Code chapter 101. State law makes it clear that students may not "opt - out" of standardized or any other tests. If parents ask to opt-out of a state assessment, please refer to the guidelines listed in the chart below.

Prior to Testing

Parent shares opt-out request with campus in writing via letter or by completing the Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Form

Campus maintained a copy with assessment documents for five years. In addition, a copy should be sent to TCSupport@dallasisd.org.

On testing day, please follow the chart for either **present** on testing day or **absent** on testing day.

Present on Testing Day

Student is present on testing day=Yes

Student is sent to the testing room, read directons, and is given opportunity to test.

If the student refuses to test, the campus can choose to have student stay in the testing room or place in an alternative setting as not to distract other students participating in the test.

Test is submitted for scoring with an "S" score code.

Absent on Testing/Make-up Day

Student must be presented with the opportunity to test on a make-up test day.

If student is absent for the testing day and subsequent make-up testing days, the test is submitted for scoring with an "A" score code.

If the parent still requests that the child not be tested, inform them of the following:

- State assessments are mandatory for students enrolled in Texas public schools.
- Satisfactory performance on the STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) assessments is a requirement for graduation.
- If a student is present on the day of the test, the school will be obligated to offer the test to the student.
- If a student is present and refuses to test, the test will be coded with an 'S' for score and will be submitted to the state on the student's behalf. Students will receive a raw score of "zero" on the assessment and the lowest possible scale score for the grade/subject.
- The student will be placed in an alternative setting as not to distract other student participating in the state assessment.
- If a student is not present on the day of testing, including the makeup testing window as outlined by TEA, the test will be coded with an 'A' for absent.
- Any student who does not participate in state-mandated assessments at the request of their parent/guardian **will not** be subject to disciplinary action.
- Parents may submit their request in writing via letter or by completing the Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Form