

GCE: Opting Out of State & Federal Assessments: When Allowed & When Prohibited

Policy Notice Dissemination

In accordance with federal law, at the beginning of the school year, the District shall provide notice of the right to request a copy of this policy to parents of students attending schools receiving Title I funds. The District will provide a copy of this policy to a requesting parent in a timely manner.

State Assessments

The District cannot approve requests to opt out of state assessments. Approval of such requests is contrary to state law (NDCC 15.1-21-08). This law requires state assessments to be administered to all students in grades designated by law.

National Assessment of Educational Progress

As a condition of receiving federal funds, the District participates in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The National Assessment Governing Board has established a policy recommending a 95 percent participation rate among all students eligible to take the exam. For students classified as either English Language Learners or students with disabilities, the National Assessment Governing Board recommends an 85 percent participation rate. If the district sample falls below these goals, it shall be identified in NAEP reporting.

To help ensure that the District has a representative sample of students taking the NAEP, which will allow the District to assess the quality and effectiveness of its programming on a national level, the District strongly encourages all eligible students to participate. However, student participation in NAEP is voluntary. The District shall provide parents of eligible students with reasonable notice prior to the exam being administered and an opt-out form. This opt-out form must be returned to the District at least three days¹ prior to the exam date to ensure that the District is able to coordinate supervision and alternative activities for students who have opted out.

**Divide County
School District**

**POLICY ADOPTED: 8/9/2016
POLICY REAFFIRMED:
POLICY AMENDED:**

¹ This deadline should be reasonable (e.g., one to three days prior to the exam), allowing parents ample time to opt out.