

Lehigh Area School District

2026 Keystone, PASA & PSSA Opt-Out Information

According to the 2026 Pennsylvania Keystone Assessment and PSSA Handbooks, the protocol for parental request for exclusion from the assessment is as follows:

- Prior to each testing window, assessments will be available for review by parents and guardians. The assessment must be reviewed on district property and district personnel must be present at all times. The district will provide a convenient time for the review.
- Parents and guardians must sign the Parent Confidentiality Agreement prior to viewing any assessment. Parents and guardians may not photocopy, write down, or in any other manner record any portion of the assessments, including directions. Parents may view a copy of each test from which they want to opt-out. Before viewing, the parent must forfeit their cell phone and note taking of any kind is not allowed.
- If after reviewing the test, parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious beliefs and wish their student(s) to be excused from the test, the parents/guardians must provide a written request that states the objection to the Superintendent. Copies should be provided to the school principal and District Assessment Coordinator.
- The Superintendent will approve the request. If denied, the parents will be notified of the determination.

The 2025 Winter Keystone testing window begins on December 4, 2025. Tests can be viewed starting December 1, 2025. Testing begins December 15.

The 2026 PSSA testing window begins on Monday, April 20, 2026. Tests can be viewed starting Monday, April 6, 2026.

The Spring 2025 Keystone testing window begins on May 11, 2026. Tests can be viewed starting Monday, April 27, 2026.

Please contact your school's guidance counselor to schedule an appointment.

Lehigh Elementary Center: Ms. Boaz - 610-377-7880- mboaz@lehighton.org

Lehigh Middle School: Ms. Elias 610-377-6535- selias@lehighton.org

Lehigh High School: Mrs. Martin- 610-377-1852- kmartin@lehighton.org

NOTE: Parents/Guardians should be made aware that with an opt-out for their child, it will have a negative impact on student participation rate for district/school federal/state accountability measures.

The letter to parents regarding Chapter 4 opt-out is not to encourage parents to have students opt out of the administration.

We are subject to a federal requirement to have 95 percent or more of the students participate. Some schools do not achieve the federal participation requirement.

It is suggested that you encourage all students and the parents to allow participation in the PSSA and Keystone Exams.

The option to not participate is limited to a religious opt-out. This is NOT an exemption. It is to be used in a limited number of cases. Most states do not allow opting out for any reason.