

HISD Opt-out Policy 2016

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:

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.

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A parent/guardian who refuses to allow his/her child to participate in state-mandated assessments will complete and submit to the principal a “[State Assessments Opt-Out Form](#)” acknowledging the possible implications of such action, or the parent/guardian may provide a signed letter stating the intent for his/her child not to participate in any designated state-mandated assessments, with any rationale or explanations the parent/guardian wishes to include, including acknowledgement of possible implications. This form is not considered to be an authorization for a test exemption request.

If a student is present during the state test administration and chooses not to test, a blank answer document – coded with an “S” for scored – is submitted for scoring as required by the state. The student will receive a raw score of zero and the lowest possible scale score for the grade/subject.

If a student is absent during the entire state test administration, they are marked absent. Such designation does not impact the school or the district regarding performance calculations, but will impact participation rates on the test.

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

State Assessments Opt-Out Form

Please note that the “Opt-Out” form is **NOT** required. The form lists the implications of not testing that parents should be aware of, but instead of the form, parents may submit a parent/guardian letter instead. Another option is to complete the form and attach the parent letter.

Click [here](#) to access the **State Assessments Opt-Out Form**.

For questions, please contact your Campus Test Coordinator or principal.