

HISD State Assessments Non-Participation Policy 2018-2019

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.

HISD Board of Education Policy

A parent/guardian who refuses to allow his or her child to participate in state-mandated assessments will complete and submit to the principal a “State Assessments Non-Participation Form” acknowledging the possible implications of such action, or the parent/guardian may provide a signed letter stating the intent for his or 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, they must be sent to the testing room. The student is still read the test directions and given the opportunity to test even when present on make-up days. If the student chooses not to test, the campus can choose to have the student stay in the testing room, or to remove the student from the testing room. 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, including make-up days, 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 Non-Participation Form

Please note that the “Non-Participation” 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.

See the **State Assessments Non-Participation Form** on next page.

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

State Assessments “Non-Participation” 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

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

_____ I acknowledge 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 and opts out of the STAAR test, then a blank answer document — coded with an ‘S’ for scored — is 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.
- If a student is not present on the day of testing, their answer document is 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 negative consequences or disciplinary action.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date _____

Signature of Campus Principal: _____ Date _____

Principals: Please submit a copy of the parent/guardian letter or this form to HISD Student Assessment. Updated 02/19/2019