

Keystone Exam “Opt Out” Procedure

Section 4.4 of Chapter 4 of the State Board of Education regulations provides for the right of any parents or guardians to excuse their child from the state assessment if, upon inspection of the testing materials, they find the assessment to be in conflict with their religious beliefs. **Please note that this is the only basis for a parent or guardian to excuse his or her child from the statewide assessments.** Should a student opt-out of one or more Keystone exams, they will still need to demonstrate postsecondary preparedness through one of the three additional pathways detailed by Act 158. For more information about the Act 158 pathways, please visit this [website](#).

Parents or guardians requesting that their child be excused from the Keystone Exams must adhere to the following procedural guidelines:

- Two weeks prior to the date the child is to participate in the Keystone Exams, parents or guardians must contact the School Assessment Coordinator (SAC) to arrange an appointment to review the assessment(s).
- Prior to this review, parents or guardians must sign the Parent Confidentiality Agreement. This document will be provided upon arrival at the school.
- In the presence of the SAC, parents or guardians will be provided a copy of the assessment(s) for review. During the review, parents or guardians may not photocopy, write down, or in any other manner record any portion of the assessments, including directions.
- If after reviewing the test, parents or 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 or guardians must provide a written request that states the objection to the District Assessment Coordinator (DAC). This letter should be completed and submitted to the SAC immediately following the assessment review.
- If the DAC determines that the student is excused from the assessment due to parents or guardians request, school personnel will provide an alternative learning environment for the students during administration of the assessment(s).

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/chapter4/s4.4.html>