

STATE PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS - REGULATION

Colorado Springs District 11 values the partnership we have with parents/guardians in educating students. A student's parent/guardian may excuse the student from participating in one or more of the state assessments administered pursuant to C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3.

Parent or guardian assessment excusal

Parents/guardians who wish to excuse a student out of an assessment should notify the school principal. (see Exhibit ILBB-E, State Standardized Assessment Excusal Form).

A student who is excused from an assessment will not receive a score for that assessment. Excusing a student from a state assessment will not negatively affect a student's grade, nor will it affect the opportunities students have for participation in a full range of academic programs and services. However, standardized test scores are frequently used to determine placement in advanced courses/programs and to identify specific instructional needs of students. If a student does not take the annual state assessments, no scores will exist to support these decisions, so parents/guardians will need to work closely with educators to ensure that students have access to everything they need to be successful.

If a parent/guardian excuses his or her student from participating in a state assessment, the District shall not impose negative consequences, including prohibiting school attendance, imposing an unexcused absence, or prohibiting participation in extracurricular activities, on the student or on the parent/guardian.

The District will not impose an unreasonable burden or requirement on a student that would discourage the student from taking a state assessment or encourage the student's parent/guardian to excuse the student from taking the state assessment.

This policy's exemption process shall apply only to state assessments and shall not apply to District or classroom assessments.

Pencil and paper testing option

State law also allows for the use of paper and pencil on any state required assessment. District parents/guardians may recommend the use of paper and pencil rather than computer-based assessments for specific tests and grade levels. State law requires that parents/guardians be included in the decision making process. Therefore, school administrators will advise parent/guardians representatives of the process before requesting paper versions of state assessments annually. The District will default to computer-based assessments if no request is received before the Colorado Department of Education's required determination date (this is expected to be on or about October 30th each fall). The District Accountability Committee will bring any recommendations for use of paper/pencil to the Administration.

This request does not affect specific accommodation needs for individual students. For students with disabilities, the use of pencil and paper instead of a computer to complete a state

assessment shall be determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team or Section 504 team.

Assessment Calendar

Each fall semester, the District shall distribute an assessment calendar and related information to parents/guardians per C.R.S. 22-7-1013 to inform them about the state and District assessments that the District plans to administer during the school year.

Adopted: September 9, 2015

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-7-102 (2)(b)
C.R.S. 22-7-406
C.R.S. 22-7-409
C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3
C.R.S. 22-7-1013
C.R.S. 22-11-101
C.R.S. 22-11-203(2)(a)
C.R.S. 22-11-504(3)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.5

CROSS REFS.: GCS, Professional Research and Publishing
ILBA, District Program Assessments
ILBB, State Program Assessments
ILBB-E, State Standardized Assessment Excusal Form
JLDAC, Screening/Testing of Students
LC, Research Projects, Studies, Experiments and Surveys