

Union City Area School District PSSA / 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.

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

- Two weeks prior to the date the child is to participate in the PSSA or Keystone exams, parents/guardians must contact the Director of Curriculum and Special Programs, Mrs. Amy Coleman, to arrange an appointment to review the assessment(s) (814)438-3804.
- Prior to this review, parents/guardians must sign the **Parent Confidentiality Agreement**. This document will be provided to you upon arrival to the school.
- In the presence of the Director of Curriculum and Special Programs or designee, parents/guardians will be provided a copy of the assessment(s) for review. During the review, parents/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/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious belief 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. The written request should be written and provided to the Director of Curriculum and Special Programs or designee immediately following the assessment review.
- If the Superintendent, Mr. Matthew Bennett, determines that the student is excused from the assessment due to parental/guardian request, school personnel will provide an alternative learning environment for the student during the administration of the assessment(s).

Important Note: The Pennsylvania Department of Education advises that nonparticipation in state assessments due to parental request will negatively affect the school’s participation rate and can potentially have a negative impact on the school’s accountability status.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/chapter4/s4.4.html>