Keystone/PSSA Opt-Out Information

# According to Keystone Assessment Coordinator and PSSA Assessment Coordinator Handbooks, the protocol for parental request for exclusion from the assessment is as follows:

***Chapter 4 of Title 2 of the Pa. Code (22 Pa. Code 4.4) provides for the right of any parent/guardian to excuse a child from the state assessment if, upon inspection of the testing materials, the parent/guardian finds the assessment to be in conflict with the parent’s/guardian’s religious beliefs. This is the only basis under Chapter 4 rules for a parent/guardian to excuse a child from the statewide assessments.***

*a. Once tests have been received by the LEA, assessments must be available for review by parents and guardians from the time of receipt through the end of the testing window. The assessment must be reviewed on district property and district personnel must be present at all times. Districts must provide a convenient time for the review. This may include an evening review time, if requested. Proper security and confidentiality of the assessment must be maintained at all times.*

*b. Sites testing only online should contact DRC to order a set of paper and pencil assessments for the purposes of parental review. These booklets must be returned to DRC following the return instructions outlined in this handbook.*

*c. Parents and guardians must sign the Parent Confidentiality Agreement prior to examining test materials. A copy of this must be locally maintained. (Do not send this statement to PDE or DRC.) Parents and guardians may not photocopy, write down, or in any other manner record any portion of the assessments, including directions. The Parent Confidentiality Agreement can be found in Appendix C of this handbook.*

*d. If after reviewing the test parents/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/guardians must provide a written request to the Superintendent or Chief Executive Officer that states they do not want their child tested because the test conflicts with their religious beliefs. If a parent/guardian requests their child be opted out for religious reasons any time during testing the request should be honored. Bubble in the correct bubble on the student’s answer document. If the parent/guardian’s request comes after the test has been returned to DRC the request cannot be honored. Part IV*

*e. If the student is excused from the state assessment due to parental or guardian request, school personnel must provide an alternative learning environment for the student during the assessment and select “Student’s parent/guardian requested in writing that the student be excluded from participation after reviewing the assessment and determining it to be in conflict with the parent’s/guardian’s religious beliefs*

***Please contact 570-562-2121 ext. 1124 to schedule an appointment.***

More information on the opt-out can be found at:

[PDE Administration Materials](https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/Keystones/Pages/AdministrationMaterials.aspx)

Or at: [PA School Code](https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/chapter4/s4.51b.html)