



PSSA / Keystone Exam Opt-Out Procedures

PDE's Information for Parents or Guardians:

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. At least two weeks prior to the testing window, assessments must be available for review by parents/guardians.

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

- The parent/guardian contacts the building principal to arrange an appointment to view the assessment(s). Lackawanna Trail Elementary Center - (570) 945-5153; Lackawanna Trail Jr/Sr High School - (570) 945-5181
- Prior to this review, the parent/guardian signs the **Parent Confidentiality Agreement**. This document will be provided upon arrival at the school.
- In the presence of the building principal or designee, parent/guardian reviews assessment materials. 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, parent/guardian find the test to be in conflict with their religious belief and wish their student(s) to be excused from the test, the parent/guardian must provide a written request that states the objection to the Superintendent.
- The Superintendent will review and approve the request.
- If a student is excused from an assessment, the school will provide an alternative learning environment for the student while testing is taking place.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pacode?file=/secure/pacode/data/022/chapter4/s4.4.html&d=reduce>