

## Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Policy

Standardized testing is required in Texas public schools by the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or “STAAR,” program set out in Texas Education Code chapter 39 and 19 Texas Administrative Code chapter 101. State law makes it clear that students may not “opt out” of standardized or any other tests. Texas Education Code section 26.010 states the following:

### **Sec. 26.010. Exemption from Instruction**

(a) A parent is entitled to remove the parent's child temporarily from a class or other school activity that conflicts with the parent's religious or moral beliefs if the parent presents or delivers to the teacher of the parent's child a written statement authorizing the removal of the child from the class or other school activity. A parent is not entitled to remove the parent's child from a class or other school activity to avoid a test or to prevent the child from taking a subject for an entire semester.

(b) This section does not exempt a child from satisfying grade-level or graduation requirements in a manner acceptable to the school district and the agency.

*Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.*

### **Dallas Independent School District Testing Programs EK (Regulation)**

If a student is present during the state test administration and chooses not to test, a blank answer document, coded with an “S” for “score,” will be submitted for scoring as required by the state. The student will receive a raw score of zero and the lowest possible scale score for the grade/subject.

If a student is absent during the entire state test administration, the student will be marked absent. Such designation does not impact the school or the District regarding performance calculations but will impact participating rates on the test.

Additionally, the student will be referred to the school-based grade placement committee (GPC) for an initial determination of whether to move forward with promotion or require the student to receive additional instruction during summer school.

Any student who does not participate in state-mandated assessments at the request of his or her parent or guardian will not be subject to negative consequences or disciplinary action.

*DATE ISSUED: 12/20/2017 1 of 5 LDU 2017.25 EK(REGULATION)-X*

### **Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Form**

Please note that this form is NOT required. Parent/Guardian may instead submit their request via written letter. The form and/or parent/guardian letter should be maintained on campus with assessment documents for five years. In addition, a copy should be sent to [TCSupport@dallasisd.org](mailto:TCSupport@dallasisd.org).

*See the Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Form  
on next page.*

# Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Form

This form can be used in lieu of a parent/guardian letter. Please clearly print the following information and return to your school's principal.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Campus \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent/guardian of the above-named student, I refuse my child's participation in:

\_\_\_\_\_ State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (**STAAR grades 3-8**)

\_\_\_\_\_ STAAR End-of-Course (**STAAR EOC**)

\_\_\_\_\_ STAAR Alternate 2 (**STAAR ALT 2**)

\_\_\_\_\_ Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (**TELPAS/TELPAS Alternate**)

**\*\* please see the TEA and district testing calendars for testing dates. Some exams are administered over a two to five-week testing window.**

My reason for this decision is (parent/guardian may attach additional items to this document):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My signature indicates that I have read and acknowledged the information listed below:

- ❖ State assessments are mandatory for students enrolled in Texas public schools.
- ❖ Satisfactory performance on the STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) assessments is a requirement for graduation.
- ❖ If a student is present on the day of the test, the school will be obligated to offer the test to the student.
- ❖ If a student is present and refuses to take the STAAR test, then a blank answer document — coded with an 'S' for score — is submitted to the state on the student's behalf. Students will receive a raw score of "zero" on the assessment and the lowest possible scale score for the grade/subject.
- ❖ If a student is not present on the day of testing, their answer document is coded with an 'A' for absent.
- ❖ Any student who does not participate in state-mandated assessments at the request of their parent/guardian will not be subject to disciplinary action.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Campus Principal: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Principals: This form and/or parent/guardian letter should be maintained on campus with assessment documents for five years. In addition, a copy should be sent to [TCSupport@dallasisd.org](mailto:TCSupport@dallasisd.org).

# Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Campus Guidance

Under Texas law, school districts are not authorized to offer an exemption to the state-mandated testing requirements. Standardized testing is required in Texas public schools by the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or “STAAR,” program set out in Texas Education Code chapter 39 and 19 Texas Administrative Code chapter 101. State law makes it clear that students may not “opt out” of standardized or any other tests. If parents ask to opt-out of a state assessment, please refer to the guidelines listed in the chart below.

Prior to Testing	Present on Testing Day	Absent on Testing/Make-up Day
Parent shares opt-out request with campus in writing via letter or by completing the Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Form	Student is present on testing day=Yes	Student must be presented with the opportunity to test on a make-up test day.
Campus maintained a copy with assessment documents for five years. In addition, a copy should be sent to <a href="mailto:TCSupport@dallasisd.org">TCSupport@dallasisd.org</a> .	Student is sent to the testing room, read directions, and is given opportunity to test.	If student is absent for the testing day and subsequent make-up testing days, the test is submitted for scoring with an "A" score code.
On testing day, please follow the chart for either <b>present</b> on testing day or <b>absent</b> on testing day.	If the student refuses to test, the campus can choose to have student stay in the testing room or place in an alternative setting as not to distract other students participating in the test.	
	Test is submitted for scoring with an "S" score code.	

If the parent still requests that the child not be tested, inform them of the following:

- ❖ State assessments are mandatory for students enrolled in Texas public schools.
- ❖ Satisfactory performance on the STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) assessments is a requirement for graduation.
- ❖ If a student is present on the day of the test, the school will be obligated to offer the test to the student.
- ❖ If a student is present and refuses to test, then a blank answer document — coded with an ‘S’ for scored — is submitted to the state on the student’s behalf. Students will receive a raw score of "zero" on the assessment and the lowest possible scale score for the grade/subject.
- ❖ The student will be placed in an alternative setting as not to distract other student participating in the state assessment.
- ❖ If a student is not present on the day of testing, including the makeup testing window as outlined by TEA, their answer document is coded with an ‘A’ for absent.
- ❖ Any student who does not participate in state-mandated assessments at the request of their parent/guardian will not be subject to disciplinary action.
- ❖ Parents may submit their request in writing via letter or by completing the Dallas Independent School District Refusal to Participate in Assessment Form