



Standardized Test Participation Procedures

Parental Exclusion from State-Wide Testing

Philosophy

In an effort to ensure that schools and districts accurately report assessment results that reflect the entire student population, policies and procedures have been created to encourage the participation of all students in state-wide testing. While we closely adhere to these guidelines, we also respect the rights of parents/guardians to determine the appropriate educational activities for their students. In the event a parent/guardian chooses to exclude their student from such testing, we will respectfully honor that request. Below are the tests from which parents can exclude their child:

Test Name	
<input type="checkbox"/> SAGE Summative – English Language Arts/Literacy/Writing	<input type="checkbox"/> NAEP
<input type="checkbox"/> SAGE Summative – Mathematics	<input type="checkbox"/> UAA/DLM (for students with significant cognitive disabilities)
<input type="checkbox"/> SAGE Summative – Science	<input type="checkbox"/> General Financial Literacy Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/> SAGE Interim – All Subjects	<input type="checkbox"/> DIBELS (Grades 1 – 3 only)
<input type="checkbox"/> SAGE Formative – All Subjects	<input type="checkbox"/> AAPPL (Dual Immersion)
<input type="checkbox"/> ACT/PLAN/EXPLORE (11 th /10 th /8 th)	<input type="checkbox"/> Civics Exam (*Passage of the Civics exam is required for graduation.*)
<input type="checkbox"/> WIDA ACCESS (English Language Learners)	<input type="checkbox"/> UTIPS (Formative Assessment Tool) – All Subjects

Please note that parents cannot exclude their child from locally-developed and/or administered assessments or the W-APT ELL screener.

Process for Parental Exclusion

- Parents/guardians should contact the school administrator (in person or via email/mail), using the form provided at <https://webertube.com/document/29684/parental-exclusion-for-2016-17> to express their wishes. In order to print a correctly-formatted copy of the form, please click on the “Download Original” link on the right-hand side of the WeberTube viewing screen.
- The local administrator will inform the testing aide and the teachers involved to ensure the student is not tested.
- The signed form will be housed at the school level for that testing year.
- A parental exclusion request is valid **only for one testing year** and must be repeated for each academic year, as desired by the parent/guardian.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to dialogue with school and/or district officials prior to making such decisions for students.

Clarification of Parental Exclusion Effects

End-of-level test results are often used in placement decisions and in determining appropriate service needs for students at the school level. Without this data, parents/guardians will need to work closely with educators and administrators to ensure students receive the support needed to achieve success.

- Parents have the right to opt their children out of any testing required by or facilitated through the Utah State Board of Education. This includes all tests indicated in the table on the previous page.
- When a student over 18 years old, or a parent or guardian requests an exclusion from a state-level test, there is no requirement for an optional or alternative test to be given.
- When a student over 18 years old, or a parent or guardian requests an exclusion from a state-level test, no academic penalty shall result for the student. If teachers/schools use any of these test course placement decisions, some alternative assessment will need to be provided. *(Parents should work closely with educators in this case to ensure appropriate educational placement and services are offered.)*
- Parental exclusion from end-of-level testing, and participating in end-of-level testing both result in de-identified and aggregated individual data being reported to the federal government. The difference in the data shared on all public school students as required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is that the proficiency level for a student who has a parental exclusion will not be reported, while a tested student's proficiency level will be reported as the proficiency level (1-4) determined by the testing.
- Any student who is in school and not participating in testing should be engaged in a meaningful educational activity. Students not participating in any testing should not be singled out in any negative way, nor should the student or the class be administratively punished in any way because the student has a parental exclusion from testing.
- As per action taken by the Utah State Board of Education on April 4, 2014, a student who has a parental exclusion from testing will not receive a proficiency score, and for state purposes will not be counted against participation rates. However, these students will be reported as non-participants on federal reports and accountability and this may impact an LEA's qualification for and the receiving of certain federal dollars.
- SAGE Test scores MAY NOT be used in the determination and/or calculation of a student's academic grade.
- As per current Utah State Office of Education Policy, a student who has not opted out and is absent from school, and therefore does not participate in testing, is counted as a non-participant (both in state and federal reporting) and may impact the school's participation score, which is included in the calculation of the school's letter grade. An absent student is not included in calculating proficiency for a class, grade or school.
- ***If a parent/guardian invokes the Parental Exclusion rule with respect to the Civics Exam, the student will not have fulfilled the requirements for graduation (as per the Utah State Board of Education) and will not be granted a diploma.***