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Testing Procedures and Standards–Exclusion from Testing
Policy Series: 4000 Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Policy No. 4400 Procedure 1

10 **Assessment and State Testing**

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Opting Out of State Testing

14 A parent or guardian has the right to exempt the parent's student from a statewide assessment.
15 A student who is exempted from a statewide assessment may not be penalized because of the
16 exemption.

17 This procedure sets forth the required process for exemption and addresses related matters.

18 The district may establish its own policy regarding assessments required by the district but not
19 statewide assessments, including whether a student may be exempted from district
20 assessments and what consequences there are for taking or failing to take such an
21 assessment.

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23 [Utah Code 53G-6-803\(9\)](#) identifies that a parent or guardian may opt out of state testing for their
24 students:

- 25 a) Upon the written request of a student's parent or guardian, an LEA shall excuse the
26 student from taking a test that is administered statewide or the National Assessment of
27 Educational Progress (NAEP). The same code also directs that district schools and
28 employees do not suffer any adverse impact as a result of students opting out of state
29 testing:
- 30 b) The State Board of Education shall ensure through board rule that neither an LEA nor its
31 employees are negatively impacted through school accountability

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Exemption Procedure

34 To exempt a student from one or more statewide assessments, the parent shall, on an annual
35 basis, complete the Parental Exclusion from State Assessment form and deliver it to the

36 principal or the District at least one day before the beginning of any assessment from which the
37 student is to be exempted.

38 At the discretion of the District, and upon parental request, the District may exempt a student
39 from a statewide assessment when the form is delivered less than one day before the
40 assessment begins.

41 The form may be delivered by email, mail, or in person.

42 The form is available at:
43 <https://schools.utah.gov/assessment>

44 The District may create a District-specific form if the form lists the District-required assessments
45 from which the student may be exempted and also contains the information described in the
46 Parental Exclusion from State Assessment form.

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48 **Opt-out Eligible Tests**

49 The following tests are included under the state's Parental Exclusion directives; consequently,
50 the district will honor parent/guardian requests for students to be excluded from these tests:

- 51 ● RISE (Readiness, Improvement, Success & Empowerment) Summative Tests
- 52 ● RISE (Readiness, Improvement, Success & Empowerment) Interim Tests
- 53 ● RISE (Readiness, Improvement, Success & Empowerment) Benchmark Tests
- 54 ● Utah Aspire Plus Test
- 55 ● Acadience Reading Test
- 56 ● Acadience Math Test
- 57 ● High School Civics Test (While parents may opt out of this test, by Utah law, it is
58 required for high school graduation.)
- 59 ● CTE Skill Certification Tests (While parents may opt out of these tests, by Utah law, it is
60 required for CTE certifications.)
- 61 ● ACT (American Collegiate Test)
- 62 ● NAEP (National Assessment of Education Progress)
- 63 ● UAA/DLM (Utah's Alternative Assessment/Dynamic Learning Maps)
- 64 ● AAPPL (Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages) Tests
- 65 ● USBE's General Financial Literacy Assessment

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67 Some tests are required by federal law and tied to federal funding. These tests do **NOT** fall
68 under the Opting Out of State Testing policy, for which Provo City School District is not required
69 to honor requests for students to opt out:

- 70 ● WIDA ACCESS Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-
71 State for English Language Learners

72
73 **Additional Requirements**

74 The following standards apply to parental exemptions:

- 75 1. Students may not be given nonacademic rewards for participation in a statewide
76 assessment or for performance on a statewide assessment. Teachers may use student
77 scores on statewide assessments to improve the student's academic grade or to
78 demonstrate the student's competency within a relevant course.
- 79 2. A teacher, principal, or other District administrator may contact a parent to verify that the
80 parent submitted a Parental Exclusion from State Assessment form.
- 81 3. A parent may be requested, but may not be required, to meet with a teacher, principal,
82 or other District administrator regarding the parent's request to exclude the parent's
83 student from taking a statewide assessment.
- 84 4. The student's parent shall, consistent with the protection of student privacy, be provided
85 the student's individual test results and scores.
- 86 5. If a student who has been exempted from participating in a statewide assessment is in
87 attendance during test administration, the student shall be provided with an alternative
88 learning experience.
- 89 6. A student who has been exempted from participation in a statewide assessment may be
90 allowed to be physically present in the room during test administration.

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92 **Consequences**

93 A student who is excluded from any test will not receive a score for that assessment. Opting out
94 of an assessment will not negatively affect a student's grade, nor will it affect the opportunities
95 students have for participation in a full range of academic programs and services. However,
96 standardized test scores are frequently used to determine placement in advanced
97 courses/programs and to identify specific instructional needs of and services for students. If a
98 student opts out of testing, a score will not exist to support these decisions. Furthermore, the
99 High School Civics test is required by law for high school graduation, and CTE Skills
100 Certification Tests are required in order to provide a certificate. Parents/guardians are
101 encouraged to work with school staff to ensure students have assessment data to support
102 student goals.

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104 **Synopsis**
105 [Parental Right to Academic Accommodations](#)
106 [State Testing List for Parental Exclusion](#)

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108 **Legal References:**
109 [Utah Admin. Rules R277-404-7\(1\), \(2\), \(6\)](#) (March 10, 2025)
110 [Utah Admin. Rules R277-404-7\(4\)](#) (March 10, 2025)
111 [Utah Admin. Rules R277-404-7\(5\), \(7\) to \(11\)](#) (March 10, 2025)
112 [Utah Code § 53E-4-303\(4\)\(b\)](#) (2025)
113 [Utah Code § 53E-4-305\(4\)](#) (2019)

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