



Assessment: Opting Out of State Testing

In order to ensure that schools and districts accurately report test scores that reflect their whole student population, policies and procedures exist to encourage all students to participate in state, standardized testing. We adhere to these policies and procedures while also respecting the rights of parents to determine appropriate educational activities for their students. Should a parent follow the procedures outlined for opting a student out of state testing, Provo City School District (PCSD) will honor that request as required under state law.

The Process - Parents who wish to opt their students out of the standardized SAGE Summative, ACT, NAEP, or UAA/DLM assessments should visit with a school administrator annually to obtain, complete, and submit the *Standardized Testing Opt-out Form*. The school administrator will accept the form, confirming the request for non-participation coding on the test.

The Tests - The following tests are **included** under the Opting-Out of State Testing Policy, 53G-6-803 (9). Consequently, PCSD will honor requests for students to opt out of these tests:

- SAGE Summative tests *Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence*
- ACT *American College Test*
- NAEP *National Assessment of Education Progress*
- UAA / DLM *Utah's Alternative Assessment / Dynamic Learning Maps*

Some state tests are not required (by the state) but are available to districts; others are required per federal law and tied to federal funding. These tests do **NOT** fall under the Opting Out of State Testing policy, for which PCSD is not required to honor requests for students to opt out:

- SAGE Interim tests
- DIBELS *Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills*
- ELL ACCESS *English Language Learners Assessing Comprehension and Communication in State to State*

The Consequences - A student who opts out of an assessment will not receive a score for that assessment. Opting out of an assessment will not negatively affect a student's grade, nor will it affect the opportunities students have for participation in a full range of academic programs and services. However, standardized test scores are frequently used to determine placement in advanced courses/programs and to identify specific instructional needs of students. If a student opts out of testing, a score will not exist to support these decisions. Parents will need to work closely with educators to ensure that students have access to everything they need in order to be successful. In addition, multiple students' non-participation may impact a district's qualification for, and receipt of, federal dollars.

Adopted: February 10, 2015