

TASD
Review of Keystone/PSSA Exams for Possible Exclusion
Due to Religious Reasons
2019-2020 Guidelines

Parental Request for exclusion from the Assessment

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 a Keystone/PSSA Exam, if, *upon inspection of the testing materials*, they find the assessment to be *in conflict with their religious beliefs*. This is the *only basis* for a parent or guardian to excuse his or her child from the statewide assessments.

The Tunkhannock Area School District will follow the mandated guidelines for parental review of a Keystone/PSSA Exam for religious reasons:

Two weeks prior to each testing window, exams must be made available for review by parents and guardians. The exam must be reviewed on school district property at the TASD Central Administration Office and the TASD Assistant Superintendent must be present at all times. Districts must provide a convenient time for the review. This may include an evening review time, if requested. Proper security and confidentiality of the exam must be maintained at all times.

Parents and guardians must sign the **Parent Confidentiality Agreement** (example attached). A copy of this signed document will be locally maintained. Parents and guardians *may not* photocopy, write down, or in any other manner record any portion of the assessments, including directions.

If after reviewing the test, parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious beliefs and wish their child/ren to be excused from the test, the parents/guardians must provide a written request that states the objection to the Superintendent of the Tunkhannock Area School District.

If the student is excused from the assessment due to parental or guardian request, school personnel must provide an alternative learning environment for the student during the assessment and complete the “Non-Assessed Students” grid by selecting “Student had a parental request for exclusion from the assessment”.

Please be aware that students who do not participate in the assessment due to parental request will negatively affect the school’s participation rate and can potentially have a negative impact on the school’s accountability status.

If you wish to review a Keystone/PSSA Exam for the purpose of determining if anything in the assessment is in conflict with your religious beliefs, please contact T ASD Assistant Superintendent, Mary Gene Eagen, by phone at (570)836-8230 or by email at marygene.eagen@tasd.net two weeks before the testing window begins for the appropriate exam.

TASD PSSA Exam 2020 Assessment Window

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|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| April 21-23, 2020 | English Language Arts |
| April 28-29, 2020 | Math |
| April 30, May 1 2020 | Science (Grades 4 and 8 Only) |

TASD Keystone Exam Spring 2020 Assessment Window

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| May 11-20, 2020 | Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams |
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