

TASD
Review of Keystone/PSSA Exams for Possible Exclusion
Due to Religious Reasons
2017-2018 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.

Student Participation in the Keystone Exam

Beginning with the class of 2017, students must demonstrate proficiency on the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams in order to graduate. Therefore, any student in grade 10 or below during the 2014-2015 school year is required to take a Keystone Exam if they are enrolled in a Keystone-related course. All students must participate in the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams by spring of their grade 11 year.

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 TASD 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 2018 Assessment Window

April 9-13, 2018	English Language Arts
April 16-20, 2018	Math
April 23- 27, 2018	Science

TASD Keystone Exam Spring 2015 Assessment Window

May 14-25, 2018	Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams
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