

# Assessment Opt Out - Questions and Answers

September 1, 2023

## Q: To which tests do opt out procedures apply?

A: Utah law allows parents to opt students out of any statewide standardized assessment. The table below lists tests to which opt out procedures apply.

State Tests	
APPL (language immersion)	ACT
Aspire Plus, ASVAB	Acadience Math and Reading
Civics Exam (for graduation)*	DLM
Kindergarten Testing	Gen. Financial Literacy Exam
NAEP	Pre Kindergarten Testing
RISE Tests	
RISE Benchmarks (English, Math, Science)	RISE Interims (English, Math, Science)
RISE Summative (English, Math, Science)	

*\* 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who opt out of the civics exam will not be eligible to receive a high school diploma.*

## Q: How does a parent opt a student out of tests?

A: Opt out requests should be submitted each year by a parent to a school administrator. Written requests may be submitted in person or by email. The administrator will make note of the request and inform the student's teachers that the test should not be administered. The state Parental Exclusion Form is provided as a resource.

## Q: Can a student who has opted out of a test remain with the class during testing?

A: Yes. Students who have opted out may remain with their class during testing, but they should not login to the testing system or view test material.

**Q: Can the teacher provide an alternate activity for a student who has opted out?**

A: Yes. The activity should be meaningful and one that can be completed during the class periods when other students are taking the test. The activity should not require additional time (at home or during non-testing class time), nor should it be unreasonably difficult or punitive. As with standardized test scores, student scores on any alternate activity should not be used in determining academic grades. Otherwise the alternate assignment could be viewed as an academic penalty for opting out.

**Q: Can teachers use standardized test scores in calculating student grades?**

A: Only if it increases a student grade, as long as long as students who opted out of testing also have opportunity to receive a similar incentive.

**Q: Is there any penalty for opting out of a test?**

A: No. A student's course grades, advancement to the next class, or eligibility for academic programs will not be adversely affected by a parent's decision to opt out of testing. As an exception, 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who opt out of the district civics test (which is required by state law for graduation) will not be eligible to receive a high school diploma. Sometimes test results are used to help determine placement in academic programs (like honors classes). Opting out of testing does not affect eligibility for placement in any program, but in the absence of test scores, parents should work closely with school personnel to ensure that students have opportunity to be placed in the most appropriate course. Teachers should also ensure that students who have opted out do not feel embarrassed or singled out in any way during class.

**Q: Will opting out of the test effect teacher evaluations?**

A: No. Opt out requests do not directly affect class-level test results. In the rare case that many high-achieving students opt out, a class-level test report may show lower scores than if the high-achieving students had not opted out. However, teacher evaluations are not negatively affected by class-level test results.

Please reach out to a school or district administrator if you have further concerns.