

Date: _____

Mr. Uplinger, Superintendent of Schools:

In accordance with Pennsylvania Code Title 22 Chapter 4, Section 4.4 (d)(5), we would like to exercise our right as parents to have our child excused from any State Assessments because they conflict with our religious and philosophical beliefs.

I would like to have my child opt out of the 2019 PSSA Exams.

Sincerely,

Parent's Printed Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student's Printed Name: _____

HAZLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parent/Guardian 'OPT-OUT' Procedure for PSSA Exam Testing

Section 4.4 of Title 22, Chapter 4 provides for the right of any parents or guardians to excuse their child from the state assessment 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.

1. *Two weeks prior to the testing window, Hazleton Area School District, school building in which your student is attending, will make the PSSA Exam available for review by parents and guardians.*

The exam **MUST** be reviewed at the **School building in which your student is attending** and district personnel must be present during that time. Review of this material may take place upon appointment. Please call to schedule an appointment on the dates listed below. Proper security and confidentiality of the exam must be maintained at all times.

2. *Parents and guardians **MUST** sign the Parent Confidentiality Agreement.*

A copy of this agreement will be kept at the **School building in which your student is attending** for a three year period. Parents and guardians may not photocopy, write down, or in any other manner record any portion of the exams, including directions. If after reviewing the test parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious beliefs and wish their student(s) to be excused from the test, the parents/guardians must provide a written request that states the objection to the Superintendent of Schools. If a student from Hazleton Area School District is excused from the state 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."

3. *Parents/Guardians will be permitted to review the PSSA Exam in the presence of the School Assessment Coordinator or his/her designee.*

Please call (570)459-3221, in order to schedule an appointment.

4. *If after reviewing the test parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious beliefs and wish their student(s) to be excused from the test, the parents/guardians must provide a written request that states the objection to Mr. Brian Uplinger, Superintendent.*

The 2019 PSSA Exams Testing window begins on Monday, April 15, 2019.

Test can be viewed April 3rd and 4th. Please call the office to schedule an appointment. Opt out will not be accepted after April 11th.