

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, Valley Elementary Middle School, 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 daily (Monday – Friday) between the hours of **9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** (or by appointment). 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 2 weeks prior to that date. Opt out requests will not be
honored after April 11, 2019**