



Strath Haven High School

205 S. Providence Road • Wallingford, PA 19086 • 610-892-3470

Excusal from the PSSA and Keystone Exams

Chapter 4 of Title 22 of the Pa. Code (22 Pa. code 4.4) provides for the right of any parent/guardian to excuse his/her child from the state assessment if, upon inspection of the testing materials, **he/she finds the assessment to be in conflict with his/her religious beliefs**. This is the only basis for a parent/guardian to excuse his or her child from the statewide assessments.

1. The parent/guardian must initiate contact with the school with a request for his/her student to be excused from the assessment(s). The opt-out form can be found at www.wssd.org/assessment
2. Two weeks prior to the assessment(s), the principal or building assessment coordinator will schedule an appointment for the parent/guardian to come in and view the exam(s). The parent/guardian must sign the Parent Confidentiality Agreement provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education prior to viewing the exam. No written notes, video, or pictures can be taken of the material. The objection process is not complete until the parents view the exam(s) in the school. If the parent/guardian wants the student to be excused from several exams (i.e. ELA and Math), then the parent/guardian will need to view all of these exams.
3. The parent/guardian submits a written request to the school principal or assessment coordinator, stating their request to have his/her child opt out of the assessment due to a religious objection. The letter must list the specific name(s) of each assessment about which there is an objection.
4. A parent/guardian will need to make this request each year he/she wishes the student to be excused and he/she will need to view the exam(s) each year as well.
5. The principal or building Assessment Coordinator will confirm with the parent/guardian that the child will be excused.
6. The principal or building Assessment Coordinator will submit the opt-out documentation to the District Assessment Coordinator.

IMPORTANT: Students in the class of 2023 and below who opt out of Keystone assessment due to religious reasons are still required under state law to demonstrate proficiency on the Keystone content in each of the assessed areas using an alternative pathway in place of the exam.

CONTACTS:

Tabatha Duffy	District Assessment Coordinator/Assistant Principal SHMS	tduffy@wssd.org
Steve Krall	Assessment Coordinator/Assistant Principal, SHMS	skrall@wssd.org
Maria Thomas	Assessment Coordinator, NPE	mthomas@wssd.org
Kerri Lawler	Assessment Coordinator, WES	klawler@wssd.org
Jen Connolly	Assessment Coordinator, SRS	jconnolly@wssd.org