OPT OUT FAQ FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Can I opt out my child from testing?

Yes, a parent and/or guardian has the right to not have their child tested. The case law referring to this can be found by clicking on this link: http://www.aps.edu/assessment/parents-documents/case-law.

Is there a form this year for opting out my child from testing?

Yes, there is a standard form this year for opting out of testing.

How do I opt out my child from testing?

Parents/Guardian of the child must turn in an Opt Out form or write a letter with the following information:

1. Date
2. Full name of child (last, first, middle initial)
3. Student ID of child
4. School child attends
5. Grade level of child
6. Assessments in which their child is being opted out
7. Written statement: This letter confirms I have read and/or discussed with an APS representative the possible consequences to my child, my child's teachers and my child's school the decision to opt out of the indicated tests. I understand any school that does not meet 95% participation rate on the PARCC will have their school grade lowered by one letter grade.
8. Parent/guardian signature

Where do I turn in this letter?

Please turn in the Opt Out form or letter, with all the appropriate information, to your child's school administration office.

How do I opt out my child from only certain assessments?

Indicate in your letter only the assessments that you do not want administered to your child. *(See list on back.)*

By what date do I have to opt out my child from testing?

It is preferred that you inform the school of the opt out two weeks before testing; however, there is not a specific date for the letter to be turned in to your child's school.

Are there consequences for opting out my child from testing?

- It may limit the assessment information available to your child's teachers and school administrators.
- It may limit your child's exposure to standardized testing.
- It may jeopardize the school's accountability rating because this rating is based in part on participation rates for testing.
- **It may prevent your child from graduating with a diploma.**

How might opting out affect my child's opportunity to graduate with a diploma?

The state has mandated that in order to graduate with a diploma, each student must demonstrate competencies in five areas: reading, writing, math, science and social studies. According to the state, a student must demonstrate those competencies through the following required assessments:

- PARCC math or SBA math
- PARCC reading or SBA reading
- PARCC writing or English III/English IV Writing End of Course Exam
- State Standards Based Assessment (SBA) in science
- End of Course exam in Social Studies (US History, World History, Economics, NM History, or Government)

What happens if my child fails these required assessments? Will they still graduate with a diploma?

If students fail any of these assessments, they may re-take these tests. If students still fail the re-takes, they may use state-approved or APS-approved alternative demonstrations to meet these competencies only after they have attempted all of the required assessments.

The state-approved alternative demonstrations of competency include other tests such as the ACT, SAT, PSAT and other assessments. The cut scores for those assessments are available on our website: http://www.aps.edu/students-parents/documents/2015-16-grad-requirements.

If students do not meet the cut scores for the state-approved alternative assessments as indicated in the link above, they may complete the APS-approved alternative demonstrations of competency, which include earning a grade of "C" or better on final exams, successful completion of appropriate dual credit courses, successful completion of an in-depth project, and acceptance to institutes of higher learning. Please click on the following link to see more details http://www.aps.edu/about-us/policies-and-procedural-directives/documents-and-forms/Alternative%20Demonstration%20of%20Competency%20Checklist%2012052013.pdf.

What happens if my child fails to meet the criteria of the alternative demonstrations of competency? Will they still graduate with a diploma?

Students who fail the re-takes and fail to meet the criteria of the alternative demonstrations of competency may earn a Certificate of Completion. Per state law, these students have five (5) years past exiting high school to pass assessments in the required subjects and earn a New Mexico Diploma.

What are the benefits for not opting out my child from testing?

Assessment is a critical component of many things in our lives, including the instructional cycle. Without assessment, how do you know where you are going, what your child needs to reach the target, and how well students learned the content to a standard that is common across the district? The assessments are used to ensure equity of instruction across all schools; the data collected is also used to deploy resources and professional development in an equitable way for the benefit of children's learning.

What will my child do while the rest of his/her class is testing?

Your child will be given an appropriate assignment that relates to topics they are studying in school.

Can my child be opted in for testing once I have opted him/her out of testing?

Yes. To opt your child back into testing, write a letter with the following information.
Parents/Guardian of the child must write a letter with the following information:

1. Date
2. Full name of child (last, first, middle initial)
3. Student ID of child
4. School child attends
5. Grade level of child
6. Written statement: This letter confirms I am opting my child back into the indicated tests. Lists the assessments in which you are opting in your child.
7. Parent/guardian signature

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What assessments are required to be administered to my child? For more information about these assessments, click on the following link: https://www.aps.edu/assessment/parents-documents/parents-brochure-hs-15-16/.

End of Course Exam – English III Reading
End of Course Exam – English III Writing
End of Course Exam – English IV Reading
End of Course Exam – English IV Writing
End of Course Exam – Spanish III Reading
End of Course Exam – Spanish III Writing
End of Course Exam – Algebra I
End of Course Exam – Algebra II
End of Course Exam – Geometry
End of Course Exam – Pre-Calculus
End of Course Exam – Financial Literacy
End of Course Exam – Biology
End of Course Exam – Chemistry
End of Course Exam – Physical Science
End of Course Exam – Physics
End of Course Exam – Environmental Science
End of Course Exam – Anatomy and Physiology
End of Course Exam – U.S. History
End of Course Exam – U.S. Government
End of Course Exam – Economics
End of Course Exam – N.M. History
End of Course Exam – World History and Geography
End of Course Exam – Nutrition
End of Course Exam – Culinary Arts I
End of Course Exam – Drivers Education
End of Course Exam – Basic Computers
End of Course Exam – General Computer Apps
End of Course Exam – Introduction of Arts
End of Course Exam – Ceramics
End of Course Exam – Digital Photography
End of Course Exam – Health
End of Course Exam – Physical Education
End of Course Exam – Spanish I
End of Course Exam – Drama
End of Course Exam – Music
Standards Based Assessment – Science (11th)
HS Pre/Post Assessment - Math (9th & 10th)
HS Pre/Post Assessment – ELA (9th & 10th)
ACCESS for ELL students
NMAPA/NCSC for Special Education Students
PARCC – ELA
PARCC – Math
Spanish Language Arts (10th & 11th)
PSAT
High School Graduation Retakes

And how much does each assessment cost the district?

Click on the following link to find out how much each assessment costs our district: http://www.aps.edu/assessment/parents-documents/costs-of-tests-per-student/.