

Students do NOT have to take PSSAs* or *Keystone Exams**

*Some special admit middle and high schools look at PSSA scores as part of their admission process.

If your child is in 3rd or 7th grades in Philadelphia, you may want to take this into consideration.

**Students in the class of 2019 or later who refuse the Keystone Exams may be required to complete one or more Project-Based Assessments (40+ hour online modules) in order to receive a high school diploma.

Why refuse?

You believe teacher-created tests, quizzes, class work, homework, and projects provide a better picture of your child's abilities than high-stakes standardized tests.

You'd like to see more time for assignments that encourage creative, independent thinking.

You want funding to go to reducing class size and restoring cuts rather than to testing contracts.

You've seen how the school's climate and appearance changes for the worse during testing season.

You know children don't come "standardized." Many talented, successful people simply don't test well.

Complete the form below. One copy goes to the principal and another to the superintendent. In Philadelphia, email it to hite@philasd.org or mail a copy to Dr. William Hite, c/o Philadelphia School District, Office of Assessment, 440 N. Broad St., 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19130.

TO: _____ (School Principal)

FROM: _____ (Parent of Student) DATE: _____

RE: 2015-16 Standardized Testing Refusal

As parent/guardian of _____ (student's name) enrolled at _____ (school name) in _____ School District, I have serious concerns about high-stakes standardized tests and their impact on my child's education. Be advised that my child is under my directive as his/her parent to NOT participate in standardized assessments, including benchmarks or CDTs, this school year. Please respect my legal parental rights. Do not place my child into a testing environment and do not present him/her with any standardized assessments. My child will be considered to have REFUSED, and if required, you shall code his/her tests as "OTHER" as specified in the Testing Coordinator's Handbooks provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

If my child has already begun a portion of a test, it is my wish that ALL remaining sections of the test be marked "other." Do NOT attempt to administer standardized assessments to my child during make-up periods. Please provide meaningful educational activities for my child during testing and ensure he/she is not treated differently from other test-taking students due to my refusal on his/her behalf. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at this phone number _____.

Sincerely,

_____ (Parent's Signature)

If Philadelphia School District staff members have questions about assessment refusal, feel free to contact Mr. Chris Shaffer in the Office of Assessment cshaffer@philasd.org or 215-400-6583.