

Students don't have to take PSSAs* or Keystones**

Parents can opt their children out of these tests.

*Please note, special admit middle and high schools *may* require PSSA scores for admission.

**Students scheduled to graduate in 2019 or later may be required to complete a Project Based Assessment if parents opt them out of the Keystones. The members of the class of 2017 & 2018 are exempt from the Keystone graduation requirement.

Why opt out? (even if your child does well on the tests)

You trust your child's teachers to assess his/her learning.

You feel multiple measures (tests, quizzes, class work, homework, and projects) provide a better picture of your child's abilities than a single, high-stakes standardized test.

You wish classes had more time for assignments that encourage creative, independent thinking.

You'd like for librarians, support staff, extracurricular activities etc. to be funded before tests.

You've seen how the school's climate and appearance change during testing season.

You recognize many smart, talented, successful people don't perform well on standardized tests.

You know children don't come "standardized."

In 2015, the state introduced a new "more rigorous" set of PSSAs aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and designed with the expectation that fewer students will score "proficient" on them. Nevertheless, those scores will ultimately be used to evaluate teachers, administrators and entire schools. Start the Opt Out process by returning the form below to your child's principal. Online searches for "PA Ed Law Center Opt Out FAQ" or "United Opt Out PA Guide" will provide more information. Questions? optoutphilly@gmail.com.

TO: _____ (School Principal)

FROM: _____ (Parent of Student) DATE: _____

RE: Opting out of Standardized Testing

As the parent of _____, a student at _____ School, I am writing to say that I plan to exercise my legal right Under Pennsylvania Code Title 22 Chapter 4, section 4.4(d)(4) to opt my child out of all PSSA and/or Keystone testing for the 2015-16 school year on religious grounds. I realize that I will be required to review the tests, sign a confidentiality agreement, and reconfirm my decision to refuse on religious grounds. Please, contact me in late March to arrange a time for this review. I can be reached at this phone number: _____. I understand that my child has the right to receive alternate educational instruction during the testing period(s).

SIGNATURE _____