

Blackhawk School District

Administrative Procedures for Parental Request for Exclusion from the PA System of School Assessment and/or Keystone Exams

In accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 4.4, any parent/guardian has the right to excuse their child from participation in 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.

- Each assessment will be made available for review by parents/guardians upon request.
 - The assessments must be reviewed at your student’s school of attendance. The school Principal and Guidance Counselor will be present throughout the entire review.
 - Parents/guardians wishing to request review of the assessments must contact the school Principal to schedule an appointment to review the assessments.
 - Proper security and confidentiality of the assessments must be maintained at all times throughout the review.
 - Parents/Guardians MUST sign the **Parent Confidentiality Agreement** prior to review of the assessments. (Form is attached.)
 - A copy of this agreement will be given to the parent/guardian and a copy will be maintained at the school.
- If after reviewing the test, the parent/guardian finds the test to be in conflict with their religious beliefs and wishes for their student(s) to be excused from the test, the parent/guardian must provide a written request that states the objection to Dr. Melanie Kerber, Superintendent.
- Please be aware that students who do not participate in the assessment due to parental request will negatively affect school’s participation rates and can potentially have a negative impact on the school’s achievement status.

For additional information, please contact your school Principal.

Blackhawk Intermediate School	JaneAnn Fucci	724-843-5050
Highland Middle School	Amy Anderson	724-843-1700
Blackhawk High School	Scott Nelson	724-846-9600



Parent Confidentiality Agreement

In accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 4.4 and to ensure the security and confidentiality of the assessment, when any individual inspects a Pennsylvania System of School Assessment pursuant to 22 Pa. Code §§ 4.4 and 4.5, the individual must attest to the following:

As a parent of a student who will sit for a Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) during the current school year, I understand that I have the right to review the relevant PSSA and that maintaining the validity of the assessment is of the utmost importance. I further understand that all PSSAs, including the content contained in each test booklet and answer booklet, are the secure, propriety property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Education (PDE). Therefore, I agree not to discuss, disseminate, or otherwise reveal the content of the assessment materials to anyone, including my own child(ren).

I understand that violation of these terms could result in personal liability for damages caused by a breach of test security, including but not limited to liability and/or costs associated with any of the following: retesting students; recalculating student/school/school district achievement data; developing/producing new test materials to replace compromised test materials; and investigations relating to the breach of test security.

I further understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Blackhawk School District WITNESS:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____