



**Review of Keystone/PSSA Exams for Possible Exclusion
Due to Religious Reasons
2023-2024 School Year Guidelines**

Parental Request for exclusion from the Assessment:

Section 4.4 of Chapter 4 of the State Board of Education regulations provides for the right of any parents or guardians to excuse their child from a Keystone/PSSA Exam, 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.

The Frazier School District will follow the mandated guidelines for parental review of a Keystone/PSSA Exam for religious reasons:

Two weeks prior to each testing window, exams must be made available for review by parents and guardians. The exam must be reviewed on school district property at the Frazier School District Central Administration Office and a representative designated by the Office of the Superintendent must be present at all times. Districts must provide a convenient time for the review. This may include an evening review time, if requested. Proper security and confidentiality of the exam must be maintained at all times.

Parents and guardians must sign the Parent Confidentiality Agreement (example attached). A copy of this signed document will be locally maintained. Parents and guardians may not photocopy, write down, or in any other manner record any portion of the assessments, including directions.

If after reviewing the test, parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious beliefs and wish their child/ren to be excused from the test, the parents/guardians must provide a written request that states the objection to the Superintendent of the Frazier School District.

If the student is excused from the assessment due to parental or guardian request, school personnel must provide an alternative learning environment for the student during the assessment and complete the "Non-Assessed Students" grid by selecting "Student had a parental request for exclusion from the assessment".

Please be aware that students who do not participate in the assessment due to parental request will negatively affect the school's participation rate and can potentially have a negative impact on the school's accountability status.

Student Participation in the Keystone Exam

Beginning with the class of 2023, students must meet one of several pathways in order to meet state graduation requirements. One pathway to graduation is for students to demonstrate proficiency on the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams. Therefore, all students are encouraged to participate in the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams by spring of their grade 11 year.

If you wish to review a Keystone/PSSA Exam for the purpose of determining if anything in the assessment is in conflict with your religious beliefs, please contact Frazier School District Superintendent's Office at 724-736-9507 or by email at dsmith@fraziersd.org two weeks before the testing window begins for the appropriate exam.

Frazier School District Keystone Exam Winter 2023 - 2024 Assessment Window

January 08 – 18, 2024 Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams

Frazier School District PSSA Exam Spring 2024 Assessment Window

May 01-10, 2024

Frazier School District Keystone Exam Spring 2024 Assessment Window

May 13-24, 2024 Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams



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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Parent Confidentiality Agreement

In accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 4.4 and 22 Pa. Code § 4.51 and to ensure the security and confidentiality of the statewide assessment system, when any individual inspects a Pennsylvania System of School Assessment or Keystone Exam pursuant to 22 Pa. Code §§ 4.4 and 4.5, the individual must attest to the following:

As a parent/guardian of a child who will sit for a Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and/or Keystone Exam during the current school year, I understand that I have the right to review the relevant PSSA and/or Keystone Exam, but that this review shall not compromise the security or validity of the assessment(s) in any way.

I further understand that the content of the statewide assessments, including the content contained in each test booklet and answer booklet, are the secure, proprietary 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 or children.

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 items/materials to replace compromised test items/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: _____

Witnessed by: _____

Date: _____