

**Parental Request for Exclusion from State Assessments  
Due to Religious Reasons  
2025-26 School Year Guidelines**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Under Section 4.4 of Chapter 4 of the State Board of Education regulations, you have the right to excuse your child from participating in the Keystone/PSSA exams if, after reviewing the exam materials, you find that the assessment conflicts with your religious beliefs. This is the only acceptable reason for a parent or guardian to request an exemption from these statewide assessments.

The Frazier School District adheres to the state guidelines for parental review of the Keystone/PSSA exams for religious reasons, as outlined below:

**1. Exam Review Process:**

- Exam materials will be made available for parental review two weeks prior to each testing window.
- Reviews must take place on school district property at the Frazier School District Central Administration Office, with a representative from the Office of the Superintendent present at all times.
- Review sessions will be scheduled at convenient times, including the option for evening reviews upon request.
- Strict security and confidentiality measures will be in place throughout the review process.

**2. Parent Confidentiality Agreement:**

- Parents/guardians must sign a Parent Confidentiality Agreement, which will be kept on file.
- Please note that no part of the assessment (including directions) may be copied, recorded, or documented in any way.

**3. Requesting Exemption:**

- If, after reviewing the exam, you find it conflicts with your religious beliefs, you must submit a written request to the Superintendent of the Frazier School District. This request must clearly state your objection.

**4. Alternative Arrangements for Students:**

- If your child is excused from the exam, the school will provide an alternative learning environment for them during the assessment.
- The student's exclusion will be recorded as "Student had a parental request for exclusion from the assessment."

**Please Note:**

Students who do not participate in the assessments due to parental requests will negatively impact the school's overall participation rate, which could affect the school's accountability rating.

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***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 11th grade 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](mailto:dsmith@fraziersd.org) two weeks before the testing window begins for the appropriate exam.***

**Keystone Exam Winter 2025-26 Assessment Window**

December 3-17, 2025 Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams  
January 5-16, 2026 Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams

**PSSA Exam Spring 2026 Assessment Window**

April 20, 2026 - May 08, 2026

**Keystone Exam Spring 2026 Assessment Window**

May 11 - 22, 2026 Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this process. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact the district administration office.

Sincerely,



Jason E. Pappas  
District Assessment Coordinator

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_