



## **FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Thomas J. Haupt**  
Superintendent

**Aaron D. Taylor**  
Assistant to the Superintendent

# **FASD Procedures for PA Chapter 4 Parental Guardian Request for Opting-Out of the PSSA/Keystone Testing**

Per Section 4.4 of Title 22, Chapter 4 provides for the rights of any parent or guardian to excuse his or her child from 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.**

### **Steps:**

1. Parent/Guardian contacts the Office of the Assistant to the Superintendent within two weeks of the Pennsylvania Department of Education predetermined PSSA/Keystone Assessment Window to schedule an assessment review.  
**A Parent/Guardian may only request a secure assessment review if they believe that they may have an objection to content based upon their religious beliefs. The opt-out request is only in effect for religious reasons and not moral or ethical reasons. If opt-out is not for religious reasons, the test must be marked as parent refusal.**
2. Parent/Guardian schedules the secure assessment review (to be held at the student's school) at a time convenient for both parties.

### **Things to remember prior to review of secure test materials at the school:**

1. A PSSA/KE trained staff member must be present with the Parent/Guardian at all times during the review of secure test materials.
2. Parent/Guardian must surrender any electronic device(s) over to the district staff member. (to be held until secure review has been completed).
3. Parent/Guardian reviews and signs the Pennsylvania Department of Education Parent Confidentiality Agreement.
4. Parents/Guardians are not allowed to take any notes during the secure review.



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### **Things to remember during the review of secure test materials at the school:**

Parent/Guardian reviews the assessment (for each content area considering an opt-out).  
**To opt out of all three PSSA's and/or KE's, all three content area assessments must be reviewed. A parent/guardian must review current assessments each year for opt-out.**  
The opt-out is not open-ended/ongoing from year to year.

### **Things to remember after the review of secure test materials at the school:**

1. Parent/Guardian must document religious objection (not specific objection) within a letter and submits to the Superintendent of Schools/CEO for approval.
2. The Superintendent of Schools/CEO will approve the Parent/Guardian request. In cases of any disapproval, Superintendent contacts Parent/Guardian providing notification of the determination.
3. NOTE: Parents/Guardians should be made aware that with an opt-out for their child, it will have a negative impact on student participation rate for district/school federal/state accountability measures. **The website posting to parents regarding Chapter 4 opt-out is not to encourage parents to have students opt out of the administration.** FASD is subject to a federal requirement to have 95 percent or more of the students participate.