

Student Participation in State Testing

The information below has been obtained from the Ohio Department of Education.

Federal and state laws require all districts and schools to test all students in specific grades and courses. There is no law that allows a parent or student to opt out of state testing, and there is no state test opt-out procedure or form.

WHY ARE STATE TESTS IMPORTANT?

State tests are critical for measuring student learning and ensuring that every Ohio student receives a high- quality education. The results from state tests are how we hold districts, schools and teachers accountable.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENTS WHEN THEY DO NOT TAKE STATE TESTS

Schools must administer state tests and students are expected to take them. If a parent withdraws a child from participation in certain state tests, there may be consequences for the student, the student's teacher, and the school and district.

1. Third Grade Reading Guarantee
 - a. A student who does not take the state's grade 3 English language arts test will not have a score on that test and may not be promoted to the fourth grade as part of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, unless an exemption applies.
2. English learners
 - a. A student who does not take the Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment cannot exit the English as a Second Language program.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE DISTRICT, SCHOOL, AND TEACHERS WHEN STUDENTS DO NOT TAKE STATE TESTS

1. Districts and schools receive no credit when a student doesn't participate in state testing. This can negatively impact a district's state A-F report card grades.
 - a. Families and businesses often consult A-F grades in choosing where to live, locate a business and how to vote on tax levies.
 - b. These grades also may impact school choice programs, flexibility on how funding is spent and which schools receive extra help from the state.
 - c. If student participation in a district drops below 95 percent overall or for specific subgroups of students, the district could face new restrictions on how it spends its money pursuant to federal law. Additionally, the district or school will receive demotions on their Gap Closing report card measure.
 - d. Students who do not participate in the required state tests will earn no points towards the school's performance index score.
2. Teachers may be evaluated based, in part, on their student's state test scores. If a student does not take a state test, that student's growth will not be included in the teacher's evaluation.
3. Teachers will not have access to advanced diagnostic information from state tests, such as student growth projections, to help inform instruction.