

Eaton, Jenny

From: Cole, Julie
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 4:14 PM
To: 'Zan Wilson'
Subject: RE: Policy References

Zan,
The student does not have to be absent for the entire testing window; he doesn't even have to be absent for the day of the test. If the student or parent refuses to test, districts should keep local documentation of this refusal and mark the document with S for score.

From the [FAQ in the DCCR](#):

7. What score code should a district use for a student who chooses or refuses not to test?

- For students in grades 3–8, use “S” for Score.
- For students taking an EOC assessment for the first time, use “S” for Score.
- For students taking an EOC retest in April, May, or December, use “O” for Other.
- For students taking an EOC retest in June, the answer document should be voided and returned with the scorable shipment.

TEC, [§26.010](#) (highlight added):

Sec. 26.010. EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION. (a) A parent is entitled to remove the parent's child temporarily from a class or other school activity that conflicts with the parent's religious or moral beliefs if the parent presents or delivers to the teacher of the parent's child a written statement authorizing the removal of the child from the class or other school activity. **A parent is not entitled to remove the parent's child from a class or other school activity to avoid a test** or to prevent the child from taking a subject for an entire semester.

(b) This section does not exempt a child from satisfying grade level or graduation requirements in a manner acceptable to the school district and the agency.

Julie Cole

Director of Policy and Publications

Student Assessment Division

(512) 463-9536

julie.cole@tea.texas.gov

TEA.Texas.gov/student-assessment



From: Zan Wilson <zwilson@esc14.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 3:59 PM
To: Cole, Julie <Julie.Cole@tea.texas.gov>
Subject: Policy References

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Julie,

The very popular question has hit very early this year.

Opt out of STAAR for grades 3-8.

This is my response, but can you please provide me with policy numbers to help back it up?

From a district:

We have [REDACTED] that has told our middle school campus that [REDACTED] will not be taking the [REDACTED] grade STAAR test. I cant find anything about students refusing the STAAR on TEA's website. Can you help me with this?

My answer

There is not an opt out option. [REDACTED] can keep the student home during the entire testing window if [REDACTED] chooses. The student would receive a score code of A.

If the student is present and refuses, the district should document refusal and just simply mark score (S) . [REDACTED] should be informed that a refusal or an absent score will require HB4545 tutoring for every test the student did not pass or in this case participate in.

For EOC subjects, substitute assessments are allowed; however, the district still has to submit an answer document with a score code of S for federal accountability purposes.

Thank you,

Zan Wilson, M. Ed.

Title I, Part A/Parent Family Engagement

Regional Testing Coordinator

504 Consultant

Counselor Consortium

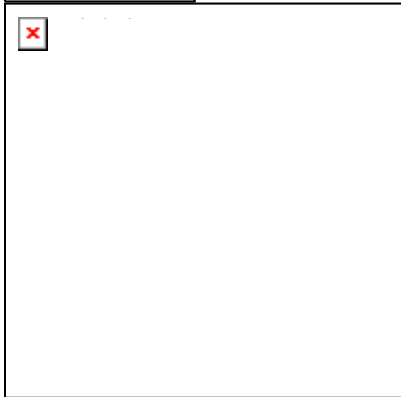
Counseling Services

Region XIV ESC

325-675-8620 (Phone)

325-675-8659 (Fax)

zwilson@esc14.net



Have sensitive information to send?

[Click here to use the ESC 14 Secure Data Transfer System](#)