
STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS

Purpose

Annually, NH school districts and public charter schools are required by state law (RSA 193-C) and federal accountability laws (Every Student Succeeds Act) to assess students using a standardized assessment. The NH statewide assessment is designed as a school improvement and accountability tool. The results of these assessments shall not be used for individual student course grades or as a graduation requirement.

Exemptions

All public-school students in the designated grades shall participate in the assessment, unless such student is exempted.

New Hampshire's RSA 193-C:6 permits parents to exempt their public-school student from participating in the required statewide assessments (English language arts, mathematics, and/or science) by submitting a completed form to the school their student attends. The school district shall provide an appropriate alternative educational activity for the time period during which the assessment is administered. The alternative activity shall be agreed upon by the school district and the parent or legal guardian of the student.

To exempt a student from participating in state-required standardized assessments, the parent/legal guardian must complete and submit a form (provided by the schools) to the student's school. A parent's advance notice of a student exemption will assist school administration in the planning of test administration. This exemption form is maintained at the school and does not need to be sent to the NH DOE but must be made available during assessment monitoring. The District shall not reschedule the student for a make-up examination at a later date, as it normally would in cases of sickness, etc.

Students attending school while exempted from the statewide assessment, shall be directed to a monitored area and provided an alternative educational activity.

Results

The statewide assessment results of a student or the student's school district shall not be included as part of the student's transcript unless the student, if 18 years of age or older, or the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is under 18 years of age, consents.

After the assessment results are released by the department, a parent or legal guardian shall have the right to inspect and review their pupil's assessment, including the questions asked, the pupil's answers, instructions or directions to the pupil, and other supplementary materials related or used to administer the pupil's assessment. A parent or legal guardian shall direct a request in writing or by email for inspection or review to the pupil's school principal.

School principals shall send requests to the superintendent who will contact the Department of Education. Upon receipt of the information, the administration shall contact the parent or guardian to arrange a time and place for review.

Principals and BOE members may inspect and review student assessment questions, and if available, the test maker's suggested answers.

Legal References:

RSA 193-C Statewide Education Improvement and Assessment Program

RSA 193-C:10 Accessibility of Assessment Materials

Legal References Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

Board Approved: 05/31/2016
 01/30/2017
 03/13/2017
 10/29/2018
 12/19/2022