



Assessment Policies

State assessment system

State and federal law requires the School to administer standardized assessments in the instructional areas of English language arts, math and science. State law also requires the School to administer standardized assessments in the instructional area of social studies. Accordingly, the School shall administer standardized assessments pursuant to these state and federal legal requirements.

State law also requires the School to adopt policies and/or procedures concerning the use of pencil and paper on the computerized portion of state assessments; parent requests to excuse their children from taking state assessments; and the School's assessment calendar. This policy represents the School's plans and processes to address these requirements.

1. Paper and Pencil Option

Considering the following factors and in consultation with staff and parents, MSCS will conduct paper-based state assessments:

- technology is not a central part of the Waldorf curriculum used
- limited computer resources for computer-based assessments
- the benefit of students taking assessments in the educational environment they are most comfortable and familiar with, ie. the classroom

For students with disabilities, the use of pencil and paper instead of a computer to complete a state assessment shall be determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, in accordance with applicable law.

2. Parent requests for Opt Out of standardized assessments

A parent/guardian who wishes to exempt his or her child from a particular state assessment or assessments shall make this request in accordance with this policy's accompanying regulation, The Opt Out Request Procedure.

In accordance with state law, the School shall not impose a negative consequence upon a student whose parent/guardian has requested an exemption from a state assessment or assessments.

This policy's exemption process shall apply only to state assessments (CMAS Science and Social Studies, PARCC ELA and Math) and shall not apply to School or classroom assessments, including READ Act, School Readiness and NWEA MAP assessments.

Please consider that even though you as a parent have the right to opt your child out of the state assessments, Mountain Song's survival requires a high level of participation in the assessments. The school must achieve the status of "Improvement" this year in order to be able to confidently negotiate a charter renewal at the end of 2016. In order to achieve the status of "Improvement", our scores must reflect growth and high participation in the assessments.

Opt Out Request Procedure

To opt a student out of the state assessments, return the following form, completed, to the school office:



Assessment Opt-Out Form

In accordance with Colorado law, C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (8), I am opting my child, _____ (first and last name), out of all state assessments tests including CMAS and PARCC. Per state law this may not impact my child's grades, nor affect the teacher or school grade in any way. No punitive measures may be taken against my child, nor may other students be rewarded for taking the test while my child does not receive such rewards.

Name

Date

LEGAL REFS.

- C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3 (1) (state assessment implementation schedule) C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3 (1)(d) (School must report to district and CDE the number of students who will take the state assessment in a pencil and paper format)
- C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3 (8)(a) (policy required to ensure explanation of student state assessment results)
- C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (1) (academic standards)
- C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (6) (policy required regarding the use of pencil and paper on state assessments)
- C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (7) (procedure required concerning distribution of assessment calendar to parents/guardians)
- C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (8) (policy and procedure required to allow parents to excuse their children from participation in state assessments)
- C.R.S. 22-11-101 *et seq.* (Education Accountability Act of 2009)
- C.R.S. 22-11-504 (3) (policy required to ensure explanation of student state assessment results and longitudinal growth information)