
KEYSTONE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

4521 Longshore Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19135

Telephone: (215) 332-2111 Fax: (215) 332-2840

March 1, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Under 22 Pa.Code Section 4.4, a parent/guardian has a right to have his or her student excused from the PSSA, if the state assessment conflicts with religious beliefs of the parent/guardian.

Important information appears below regarding the school's policies and procedures for a parent/guardian who may be considering refusal of his or her student from taking the PSSA:

- (1) The parent/guardian must send a written request to the CEO stating that the parent/guardian believes that the PSSA may be in conflict with the parent's religious beliefs and that, therefore, the parent/guardian requests an opportunity to inspect the assessment. A written statement is needed that simply states, "I am informing Keystone Academy Charter School of my intent to refuse my student from taking the PSSA on religious grounds if, upon inspection of the assessment, the assessment is in conflict with my religious beliefs." The school may not question the beliefs of the student's parent/guardian.
- (2) Opportunity to review the assessment by a parent/guardian who believes that it may be in conflict with religious beliefs is scheduled before the assessment window. Date(s) or time(s) will be scheduled prior to the assessment window on an as-needed basis and, if so, notification of same will be given.
- (3) The PSSA is copyrighted property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Copying or duplicating material from the assessment is a violation of the federal Copyright Act. Penalties for violations of the Copyright Act may include the cost of replacing the compromised test item(s) or fines of no less than \$750 up to \$30,000 for a single violation. 17 U.S.C. Section 101 *et seq.*

In order to ensure the security and confidentiality of the assessment:

- (i) Before inspection of the assessment, the parent/guardian is required to sign a Confidentiality Agreement, that he or she will not discuss, disseminate or otherwise reveal the content of the assessment to anyone, including his or her own child(ren); and
- (ii) School staff will escort the parent/guardian during his or her visit to review the

assessment. The parent/guardian may not be alone with students or with the assessment at any time during the visit. While inspecting the assessment, a parent/guardian will not be allowed to be in possession of any electronic device which can be used to photograph or duplicate test materials, access the Internet or communicate with others. Prohibited electronic devices during inspection of the assessment by a parent/guardian include, but are not limited to: cell phones, smart phones, E-readers, Nooks, Kindles, iPads, iPods, tablets, and camera-ready devices.

(4) If, after inspecting the PSSA, the parent/guardian still wishes for his or her student to be excused from taking the assessment, the parent/guardian must submit a written request to the CEO prior to the assessment window. Simply needed is a written statement stating, "After inspection of the PSSA, I am informing Keystone Academy Charter School of my intent to refuse my student from taking this assessment because it is in conflict with my religious beliefs." The school may neither question the beliefs of the student's parent/guardian nor deny the exemption claimed for his or her religious beliefs.

(5) Any student who is exempted from the PSSA due to parent/guardian refusal on religious grounds will be provided with an alternative learning environment during the assessment.

If you have any questions regarding these policies, please contact 215-332-2111.

Sincerely,

Dr. Claudia Lyles
Chief Executive Officer