

TRCS POLICY

STATE-MANDATED ASSESSMENTS

The Two Rivers Community School's Board respects parents' and legal guardians' rights to direct their children's education and honors the choices of parents or guardians make regarding their students' participation in state-mandated assessments. Under Colorado law, all schools districts, boards of cooperative services, district charter schools and institute charter schools are prohibited from imposing negative consequences for a parent's exercise of his or her choice to excuse a student from state-mandated assessments. In accordance with state law protecting students and parents, and in order for families to make their own best choices regarding state mandated assessments, the TRCS Board adopts the following policy.

Information About State Mandated Assessments

Before classes commence in the fall, TRCS shall provide to each parent or guardian the schedule of state-mandated assessments to the extent known, including a statement about the purpose and use of the state-mandated assessments. A copy of this policy shall accompany this communication, which shall also be posted on TRCS website.

As required by state law, the results of state-mandated assessments shall be included on each student's final report card, if such results are available in time for inclusion on the final report card. If a parent or guardian has excused the student from taking one or more state-mandated assessments, the final report card shall not indicate in any way that the assessment was excused or not taken.

TRCS will share and explain the results of student test scores with parents in a timely fashion after having received results from the State. Results will be shared no later than the next scheduled parent-teacher conferences after being received.

Administration of State-Mandated Assessments

The Director of Education or designee shall observe all testing protocols relevant to the state-mandated assessments, and shall make proper arrangements for test security.

For computer-based assessments, a parent or guardian may request that the assessment be administered using pencil and paper. Such requests must be made in writing, including email, in order to allow for the proper arrangements to be made for the students to take the pencil and paper version of the assessment.

Although on-site supervision cannot be guaranteed for students who do not take the state-mandated assessments, staff and volunteers will do their best to provide on-site supervision, and make these accommodations known to the parent community through direct communication, parent newsletter and/or school website.

Excusing State-Mandated Assessments

TRCS shall provide a standardized form to document parent or guardian excuses of administration state-mandated assessments for state compliance purposes, though the parent or guardian shall not be required to use the form to express their desire to excuse the administration of the state-mandated assessments. A parent or guardian's written excuses from state-mandated assessments may apply to all such assessments, or certain assessments as selected by the parent or guardian. Excused absences will be given to all students who have parent or guardian excuses from state-mandated assessments, provided that the parent or guardian has notified the school in writing with reasonable advance notice before testing. The student will be marked as an excused absence.

This assessment excuse process applies only to state-mandated assessments, and does not apply to teacher or school tests or assessments. Parent or guardian concerns about assessments may be addressed with the classroom teacher and/or Director of Education.

Prohibited Activities

While schools are expected to comply with applicable law for state-mandated assessments, inappropriate incentives to either encourage or discourage any student from the taking of these assessments are prohibited, including but not limited to: extra recesses; homework "passes", class parties.

Non-participation in state-mandated assessments shall not be used for class placement guidance or as a prerequisite to participate in any academic classes.

No student, parent or guardian, teacher, building leader or school shall be penalized in any way for a parent or guardian excusing a student from state-mandated assessments as provided in this policy. Prohibited actions in response to a parent or guardian excusing a student from state assessments include, but are not limited to: denying extracurricular activities; denying continuation to the next grade level; denying participation in graduation ceremonies or

advancement activities; being singled out to peers; requiring the parent or guardian to meet with the principal regarding the excuse, unless the written excuse provided by the parent or guardian is unclear, and/or consideration of the number of excused students on a teacher or building leader's evaluation.

Nothing in this policy is to be construed as evidence of an intention on the part of the Board of Education to avoid the law of the State of Colorado, or rules of the Colorado Department of Education regarding educational accountability for school districts, schools, principals or teachers.

Adopted: October 28 , 2015