

Statement Regarding Assessment Exemptions and Parental “Opt-Out” Requests

Under both Federal law and Vermont policy, only two permissible assessment exemptions are recognized:

- An exemption for health or medical reasons that would prevent a student from participating at any time during the 3-month assessment window including time set aside for make-up testing
- An exemption for English Language Learners during their first year in a US school and only in the area of English Language Arts

In Vermont, any students who are not assessed for any reasons other than health or language proficiency issues are considered non-participants and will be assigned a score of zero in the local school and district state accountability calculations.

With respect to the notion of a parental right to an opt out, there is no statute or policy, either federal or state, that establishes such a right, nor is there any law that expressly prohibits it. As result, the Agency of Education does not act in any way on these requests and relies on local school administrators to work with parents to resolve such concerns.

Please address questions to Assessment Director Michael Hock (802-479-1288/michael.hock@vermont.gov)

