



Standardized Testing Opt Out Support Policy

The Board recognizes that the state-mandated testing program is an integral part of the district's needs assessment and evaluation programs. The Board also understands that some parents or guardians will choose to opt their child out of such state-mandated standardized tests.

Therefore, the Standardized Testing Opt Out Support Policy is constructed with the intent to provide support for students when parents or guardians opt their child out of state-mandated standardized testing. The goals of the policy include the following:

- To maintain a fair and equitable environment for all students regardless of parents or guardians' decision to test
- To ensure that students whose parents or guardians opt out of testing receive instruction and supervision during designated testing times
- To outline a process for managing and supporting students whose parents or guardians decide to opt out of standardized testing that can be instituted districtwide annually

Overview of Policy

If parents or guardians shall decide to opt out of state mandated standardized testing, New Haven Public Schools administration and staff will respect their decision. Students shall not be penalized for their participation or lack thereof in standardized testing. Students whose parents or guardians opt out of testing will be provided with an appropriate instructional experience while students are testing. The building leader or test designee must provide an alternative curriculum for students who have opt out of standardized testing while students who opt in are testing.

Students should not be left unattended for the duration of the test and must be supervised. This instructional experience may take place in different forms but should be related to students' learning. In doing so, schools ensure that students whose parents and guardians opt out of testing still receive instruction during this time. In providing an instructional experience to students, the Board maintains that schools are a place of learning in which students regardless of their parents or guardians' decision to test can learn and feel supported.