



Testing Policy Letter
School Year: 2020-2021

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our District receives federal funds for education programs that are part of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*, as amended (2015).

This law requires that all States adopt challenging academic standards and tests based on those standards. There must be at least three levels of scores for students who take these tests. This includes tests in mathematics, reading or language arts, science, and any other subject chosen by the State. States are required to develop English language proficiency tests for students who are English learners. Proficiency in a language is a measure of a person's ability to understand and communicate in that language or in a person's ability to understand and communicate in that language or in a person's preferred mode of communication. Furthermore, States must develop alternate tests for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. A school district may also request State approval to use a locally selected test for high school students that differs from the State test.

These academic tests provide important information that help teachers, schools, school districts and states identify students' strengths and weaknesses. Test results and other information are used to improve academic and language instruction for students. These tests are also used to identify schools that may be in need of extra support to improve student achievement. It is the goal of the district to have all students participate in state and local testing.

You have the right to request to receive any State or District policy about student participation in any of these tests required by the ESEA. If you request this information, the district must provide it to you.

If you have any questions about the benefits of State testing, district testing, or both, please contact Melanie Blais, Curriculum Coordinator at (207)532-6555.

Opt Out Statement

RSU 29 utilizes all assessment data to help inform our practices at the district, school, classroom and individual levels for our students. Although we encourage students and parents to participate fully in our assessment program, it is important to note that parents/guardians may opt their child out of state testing. If you are interested in doing so, please reach out to your child's principal to make this request in writing.