

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Principals

THRU: Frank Barnes, Chief Accountability Officer

FROM: Joseph Wolfe, Director of State Testing (980-343-5432) Contact

DATE: April 8, 2014

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF ACTION WHEN A PARENT REQUESTS TO OPT OUT OF TESTING

The attached memo from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) provides guidance when a parent or guardian informs a school that they are going to opt-out of EOY testing. According to the NCDPI, opting out of testing is not permissible under state and federal legislation. In the event your school receives notification from a parent/guardian that they intend to opt out of testing for their child, the following actions must be taken by the school.

1. Provide written notification of the legislative requirements for testing to the parent/guardian. Use of the attached sample letter is required.
2. Explain the possible consequences of following through on this action. Some of these consequences are listed below.
 - a. High school students enrolled in courses that require an End-of-Course (EOC), Career and Technical Education (CTE) or North Carolina Final Exam (NCFE) assessment, that do not participate due to opting out, will receive a zero (0) for their final exam grade which will count as 25% of their overall final course grade possibly causing them to not receive credit for the course.
 - b. Elementary/Middle school students enrolled in courses that require an End-of-Course (EOC), Career and Technical Education (CTE) or High school North Carolina Final Exam (NCFE) assessment, that do not participate due to opting out, will receive a zero (0) for their final exam grade which will count as 25% of their overall final course grade possibly causing them to not receive credit for the course.

- c. Grade 3 Students that were not proficient on the Beginning of Grade 3 (BOG3) assessment and do not participate in EOG testing, due to opting out, will not be considered proficient, ineligible for a RTA alternate assessment, flagged as a retaineer and must attend the CMS Summer Reading Academy.
- d. Grade 3 students that are not proficient, Opted out of EOY testing and do not attend the CMS Summer Reading Academy, will be retained in the third grade.

It is important that schools communicate with parents/guardians about the consequences of opting out in order for them to make an informed decision regarding this matter. We are in the process of developing a set of letters to families to aid with this task. We will have those to you prior to spring break.

Please email any questions about this subject to members of our state and federal testing team at StateandFederalPrograms@cms.k12.nc.us, and a team member will respond to you promptly.

Thank you in advance for working to get the word out to your families.

cc: Executive Staff
Accountability Directors
Jimmy Chancey
Charles Nusinov