

HB 2315 -- STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT OPT OUT

SPONSOR: Bahr

This bill allows parents of students and adult students to opt out of statewide assessments. A parent or an adult student may choose to excuse either their child or self from statewide assessments on an annual basis. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is required to establish a form to be used for excusing a student from state wide assessment and must include an explanation of the right of a parent or adult student to opt out and an explanation of the purpose and value of statewide assessments.

School district and public charter schools must provide parents and adult students with a notice about statewide assessments. DESE must establish the notice, which must include information about assessments, likely time frames for administering assessments, and a statement about a parent or adult student's right to opt out. School districts must send notices at the beginning of each school year and at least 30 days prior to administration of statewide assessments. The latter notice must include the above information along with the specific days of testing, the amount of class time required for testing, learning targets of testing, the difference between good and poor performances, when results of the testing will be available, and provide access to the aforementioned form.

School districts cannot deny excused students a high school diploma on the basis of their excusal and must provide excused students with supervised study time.

If the excusal of students affects any item on the school accountability report card DESE must include on the school accountability report card: an indication that an item was affected by a federal law requirement, a brief explanation of the requirement, and a brief explanation of how the item would have appeared on the report card if not for the federal requirement.

School districts are not required to provide notice until the 2017-2018 school year.