State Assessment Refusal Documentation Form

Please print the following information:

Student’s Name: _________________________  Student ID Number (if known): ________________
School: __________________  Grade: __________

Parent/Guardian/Adult Student’s Name: ____________________________

As the parent/guardian of the above named student, I choose for my child to not participate in a Washington state assessment. I choose for him/her to not participate in:

☐ The Smarter Balanced Assessment (grades 3-8 and high school)
☐ Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (grades 5, 8, and 11)
☐ The WA- Access to Instruction & Measurement (WA-AIM)
☐ End-of-Course Exam in Mathematics
☐ ELPA21 Language Proficiency (for ELL students)
☐ ELPA21 Screener (for ELL eligibility)
☐ Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS)
Other tests (please specify): __________________________________________________________

My reason for this decision is:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

I have read and understand the benefits and consequences listed below. In particular, I understand that:

• If my child does not pass a high school state assessment in English Language Arts, and math (or an approved alternative), she/he will not obtain a Washington high school diploma.
• If my child does not attempt the high school state assessment at least once in each content area, she/he will not be eligible to access alternative options in that content area.
• If my child is an English Language Learner (ELL) but does not take the Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA21), my child will not be eligible to receive services in this area.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _________________________ Date Signed: ____/____/____

School/District Representative: _______________________ Date Signed: ____/____/____
Benefits for Students Taking State Assessments

✓ The state assessments assess critical curriculum standards, including higher-level thinking, communication, reasoning, problem solving, and application of knowledge and skills in new situations. Teachers and staff can gain information about students’ progress toward meeting grade-level expectations (what students should know and be able to do) in the core academic areas of reading, writing, math, and science, and can plan instruction accordingly.

✓ By taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment in grades 3-8, students become familiar with the test and have several chances to get feedback on their performance, before taking the test as a graduation requirement in high school. Each student’s test performance provides a profile of the student’s stronger and weaker areas in each subject area tested. Students who do not take the state tests prior to high school will not have had the opportunity to practice and get feedback before taking the state assessment as a graduation requirement.

✓ Because the state assessment measures students’ progress toward meeting standards, information regarding the performance of district groups of students can help district staff make decisions about the effectiveness of various instructional programs. If students do not take the state assessment, teachers and staff lack full information about their instructional needs, which could lead to some students not receiving all the instructional support they might need to be successful later in school.

✓ Benefits for Students Taking the Wa-AIM (for students with significant cognitive disabilities): The student’s growth on key learning targets is documented three times a year, showing the student’s progress toward state standards.

✓ The evidence submitted in a portfolio ensures that students with the most intensive disabilities have an opportunity to “show what they know” and to receive instruction at a level that is challenging and attainable.

✓ Parents who want to know what test questions their child took can submit a request to the state to view their child’s answers on their completed tests booklets to gain a deeper understanding of how their child is progressing on state standards.

If you wish to refuse to have your child participate in a state assessment, please fill in this form completely, sign it, and send it to the address below. You may also return it to your school office for forwarding.

Department of Assessment and Student Learning
Shoreline Public Schools
18560 1st Ave. NE
Shoreline, WA 98155

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