

Scholar Academy

Policy: Assessment of Student Achievement Policy

Adopted: March 29, 2023

Purpose

Scholar Academy (the “School”) is required to measure student achievement, including by way of administering statewide assessments. When administered properly, statewide assessments give students an opportunity to demonstrate what they know and can do. In addition, the results of statewide assessments provide the School not only important data about their students’ proficiency, but also valuable information that can be used to guide and improve instruction in the School.

The purpose of this policy is to help ensure that the School conducts statewide assessments in a fair and ethical manner and in compliance with applicable law and Utah State Board of Education (“USBE”) rule. The School intends for this policy to comply with the requirements of Utah Administrative Code Rule R277-404.

Policy

Statewide Assessment Plan

The School shall develop a plan to administer statewide assessments. The plan shall include at least the following:

- (a) The dates the School will administer statewide assessments;
- (b) Professional development for an educator to fully implement the assessment system;
- (c) Training for an educator, appropriate paraprofessional, or third-party proctor in the requirements of assessment administration ethics; and
- (d) Training for an educator and an appropriate paraprofessional to use statewide assessment results effectively to inform instruction.

The School shall submit the plan to the USBE by September 15 each year.

At least once each year the School shall provide professional development and training on statewide assessment administration as required by R277-404. The School shall use the Standard Test Administration Testing Ethics Policy for such professional development and training.

Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

- (a) With the exception of those students described in subsection (b) immediately below and exempted students, the School shall administer statewide assessments to all students enrolled in the grade level or course to which the assessment applies.

- (b) A student's IEP team, English Learner Team, or Section 504 accommodation plan team shall determine an individual student's participation in statewide assessments consistent with the Utah Participation and Accommodations Policy.
- (c) An educator may use a student's score on a statewide assessment to improve the student's academic grade for or demonstrate the student's competency within a relevant course. However, a student's score on a statewide assessment may not be used in determining whether the student may advance to the next grade level.
- (d) The School may not provide a nonacademic reward to a student for taking a statewide assessment.

Student Exemption from Statewide Assessments

- (a) A student's parent has the right to exempt the student from a statewide assessment in accordance with Utah Code § 53G-6-803 and the exemption procedures in R277-404. The School shall not impose procedures beyond those in R277-404 to exercise this right nor may the School impose any penalty or adverse consequences upon a student who is exempted.
- (b) School grading, teacher evaluation, and student progress reports or grades may not be negatively impacted by students exempted from taking a statewide assessment.
- (c) The School may allow a student who has been exempted from a statewide assessment to be physically present in the room during test administration. The School shall ensure that exempted students who are in attendance are provided with an alternative learning experience during test administration.

Other Requirements

The School shall comply with all applicable requirements in R277-404, including adhering to the USBE's Standard Test Administration and Testing Ethics Policy which is incorporated by reference in the rule.