

SBAC Opt-Out Script:

Q: Is state testing required?

State testing is required by state law ([RCW 28A.230.095](#)) and federal law ([Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#)).

Q: Why is state testing important?

Statewide testing is important because it helps ensure all public school students receive a quality education, no matter where they go to school, because they are measured to equal standards. This information assists districts and schools in improving instructional practices and curriculum and gives families valuable information about how well their student is doing and where additional help might be needed.

Test results are one piece of information about how your student is doing in school. Together with report cards and other information, test results let you know if your student is on track to succeed in higher grades as well as for college and career. For students in grade 11, these results are used by some community colleges to measure if students are on track for college-level classes.

Q: Why is student participation important for MEWA?

As a charter school, student participation in this test is critically important to MEWA. This is one of the ways we demonstrate that we add value to a student's education and defend our existence. We use this data when we go before the GBSD board every year for a report on student academic achievement to meet the requirements of our charter agreement. We also rely on SBAC achievement data in conversations with the state legislature, which is especially important when legislation potentially restricts charter school existence, growth, enrollment and continued operation. Without student participation, we risk losing our charter, and without that, MEWA would not exist. We feel that participation is so important to our school that we ask every parent and student that enrolls in MEWA to sign a contract at enrollment, agreeing to this statement: "The parent agrees to testing requirements as outlined by the school for both Oregon State Testing and ongoing formative testing."

Q: What impact does state testing refusal have?

Test refusals affect students, schools, and districts in different ways:

- Students in grades 3-8: Test results help families know if their student's learning is on track, or if extra help is needed. Some school districts use state test results to determine a

student's eligibility for special programs, like accelerated learning opportunities. Please contact your local district for more information.

- Students in high school: Assessment results are necessary in order to have a complete High School and Beyond Plan, which is a graduation requirement. In addition, the results from the 11th grade ELA and math tests are used to inform course-taking for the year of high school. When an 11th grade student demonstrates they have met standard on the test, they will have greater course-taking flexibility.
- Schools and districts: Test refusals penalize schools and districts. Students who do not test are counted among the number of students who do not meet standard. This is reflected in the Accountability Index. Schools and districts that fall below a 95 percent participation rate on state tests jeopardize eligibility for any state or federal awards or recognitions.

Q: Do 11th graders need to take SBAC in order to graduate:

- Assessment results are necessary in order to have a complete High School and Beyond Plan, which is a graduation requirement. In addition, the results from the 10th grade ELA and math tests should be used to inform course-taking for the next two years of high school. When an 11th grade student demonstrates they have met standard on the test, they will have greater course-taking flexibility. Meeting standards on the high school test is one of the pathways a student can use to demonstrate post-secondary career or college readiness.
- 11th graders are able to use passing SBAC results to receive proficiency credit in either English and/or math, giving them added credits toward graduation requirements.

Q: What options are there for students experiencing high test anxiety, or other social-emotional challenges, in response to the request to participate in testing?

- Our testing coordinators are able to accommodate most testing needs, and can arrange for students to complete tests in small groups or private rooms to help alleviate anxieties. MEWA is also able to offer Remote Testing in some cases. Still, if choosing to opt out of testing is in the best interest of the student, based on his or her social-emotional needs, the student will be referred to the counselor for additional support.