Parents can opt their children out of PSSA tests.*

*Please note, special admit middle and high schools *may* require PSSA scores for admission.

Why opt out?
(even if your child does well on the tests)

You trust your child's teachers to assess his/her learning.

You feel multiple measures (tests, quizzes, class work, homework, and projects) provide a better picture of your child's abilities than a single, high-stakes standardized test.

You wish classes had more time for assignments that encourage creative, independent thinking.

You'd like for librarians, support staff, extracurricular activities etc. to be funded before tests.

You've seen how the school's climate and appearance change during testing season.

You understand PSSAs have a disproportionate negative effect on students with IEPs, English Language Learners, anxious children, and students living in poverty.

You recognize many smart, talented, successful people don't perform well on standardized tests.

You know children don't come "standardized."

The 2015 PSSAs are a new, more rigorous set of tests aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and designed with the expectation that fewer students will score "proficient" on them. Nevertheless, those scores will be used to evaluate teachers, administrators and entire schools. Start the Opt Out process by returning the form below to your child's principal. Online searches for "PA Ed Law Center Opt Out FAQ" or "United Opt Out PA Guide" will provide more information. Questions? optoutphilly@gmail.com.

TO: _____ (School Principal)

FROM: _____ (Parent of Student) DATE: _____

RE: OPTING OUT OF THE PSSAS 2014-15

As the parent of _____, a student at _____ School, I am writing to say that standardized testing is against my religious and philosophical beliefs. Therefore, I am exercising my legal right Under Pennsylvania Code Title 22 Chapter 4, section 4(d)(5) to opt my child out of all PSSA testing for the 2014-15 school year. I realize that I will be required to review the PSSA test, sign a confidentiality agreement, and reconfirm my decision to refuse the tests on religious grounds in writing at that time. Please, contact me in late March to arrange a time for this review. I can be reached at this phone number: _____. Please allow_____ to pursue alternate educational activities such as independent reading, a research project, or volunteering in the library during testing.

SIGNATURE _____