Rhodes School for the Performing Arts

Assessment Opt-Out Frequently Asked Questions

Rhodes School for the Performing Arts uses state-required and district/campus assessments to measure student achievement, monitor academic growth, identify instructional needs, and guide intervention and enrichment. This FAQ explains the difference between assessment types and how parent/guardian participation concerns are handled.

STATE-REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS

1. Can I opt my child out of STAAR or an EOC assessment?	STAAR and End-of-Course (EOC) assessments are state-required assessments administered under requirements established by the State of Texas and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). They are not treated as optional district/campus assessments.
2. Which assessments are considered state-required?	State-required assessments listed in the Rhodes School for the Performing Arts Assessment Chart include STAAR Reading Language Arts, STAAR Mathematics, STAAR Science, STAAR Social Studies, Algebra I EOC, TELPAS, TELPAS Alternate, and STAAR Alternate 2, as applicable.
3. What about TELPAS?	TELPAS and TELPAS Alternate are state-required assessments for eligible Emergent Bilingual students. They measure annual English language proficiency progress and are separate from locally selected district/campus assessments.

DISTRICT / CAMPUS ASSESSMENTS

4. Which assessments are considered district or campus assessments?	The Assessment Chart identifies MAP Growth Reading, MAP Growth Mathematics, MAP Growth Science, DMAC Interim Assessments, Common Formative Assessments, and Unit Assessments as district/campus or campus/classroom assessments.
5. Why does RSPA administer MAP Growth?	MAP Growth is used to measure academic growth, instructional readiness, and intervention needs. MAP Reading and Mathematics are generally administered during beginning-, middle-, and end-of-year windows and take approximately 45-60 minutes.
6. Why are students given assessments in addition to STAAR?	Local assessments provide information during the school year so teachers and leaders can monitor TEKS mastery, identify instructional needs, adjust instruction, plan reteach or intervention, and respond to student performance before the end of the year.
7. Can I request that my child not participate in a district/campus assessment?	Parents/guardians with concerns about participation in a locally administered assessment should contact campus administration. The campus will review the request, explain the assessment's purpose, and determine whether it is connected to instructional, course, program, or other requirements. Submitting a request does not automatically exempt a student from an assessment.

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REQUESTS, INSTRUCTION & RESULTS

8. How do I submit an assessment participation or opt-out request?	Submit the request in writing to campus administration. Include the student's full name, grade level, assessment name, reason for the request, parent/guardian name, contact information, and date. Campus administration will review the request and communicate directly with the parent/guardian.
9. If a request is approved, what will my child do during testing?	The campus will determine the student's appropriate instructional assignment and location during the assessment period. Students are still expected to attend school and participate in instructional activities assigned by the campus.
10. Will not participating affect my child's grade?	It depends on the assessment and how it is used. Some assessments are diagnostic or progress-monitoring tools, while common formative and unit assessments are connected to recently taught standards and instructional planning. Campus administration can explain any academic implications for the specific assessment.
11. Could not taking MAP affect intervention or academic planning?	It may reduce the amount of current information available to teachers. MAP Growth is used to measure academic growth, readiness, and intervention needs. When MAP data are unavailable, staff may need to rely on other available student data.
12. Are TSIA2, PSAT/SAT/ACT, and AP Exams handled the same way?	No. These assessments serve different purposes. TSIA2 supports dual-credit and college-level course readiness; PSAT/SAT/ACT assessments support college readiness and postsecondary planning; AP Exams measure AP course content and may provide opportunities for college credit or advanced placement. Families should contact campus administration regarding participation questions and possible program implications.
13. Who should I contact with questions?	Parents/guardians may contact campus administration regarding assessment schedules, accommodations, score reports, assessment purpose, participation concerns, or other testing questions.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
State-required assessments and locally administered district/campus assessments are not the same. A request concerning participation in a district or campus assessment should not be interpreted as an exemption from a state-required assessment. Rhodes School for the Performing Arts will review parent requests individually and communicate applicable requirements and available options.

Parent and Family Information: For additional information about assessment schedules, accommodations, score reports, or the purpose of a specific assessment, contact campus administration.