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Student Assessment Opt-Out Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this student assessment opt-out policy is to allow legal guardians (including parents) of Valley Academy (“VAC”) to follow procedures and the law if they desire to have their students excused from required assessments.

II. Policy and Authority

Valley Academy Charter School, as a public school, complies with all state-mandated testing requirements and procedures and is dedicated to using assessments to guide our instruction. As with all tests, teachers are encouraged to use the results from state-required testing to determine what information students understand or do not understand.

III. Compliance with Law

- a.** Most importantly, VAC will follow Utah law that mandates certain testing by public schools, but also recognizes parent rights and requires an opt-out opportunity. See UCA §§ 53E-4-302 (statewide assessments); 53E-5-2 (school accountability) and R277-404, R277-406 and R277-485.
- b.** Additionally, VAC respects the rights of parents to guide their students’ public education experience. See UCA 53G-6-803 and R277- 404-7 which include the following:
 - i.** Parents, in writing, may excuse their student(s) from taking (a) a federally-mandated test; (b) which is in Utah law; and (c) requires the use of the state assessment system or state software;
 - ii.** Parents should give VAC at least one day notice prior to the assessment day for opt-out requests;
 - iii.** VAC teachers may not provide students with a non-academic incentive for taking a test, but MAY allow students to substitute a state-mandated assessment for another academic assignment;
 - iv.** Teachers must provide an alternative learning experience during the testing period for students who are excused from state-mandated tests;
 - v.** Parental opt-out rights and procedures do not apply to VAC teachers’ formative and summative evaluations and assessments given regularly to students.

- vi. In order for a parent to ensure all protections of Utah law in opting out a student from a standardized test, the parent must complete the opt out form on the Utah State Board of Education website or [click here](#).
 1. A VAC administrator or teacher may contact a parent to verify that the parent submitted the required parental exclusion.
 2. VAC may request a parent to meet with a teacher or administrator regarding a parent's request to have a child excused from standardized assessments.

IV. Protection for VAC Teachers and Employees

VAC administrators and Board members will not use school grades or student scores on state-mandated assessments to negatively affect VAC employees' and teachers' evaluations