



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

March 25, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Intermediate School District Superintendents, Local Education Agency Superintendents, and Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph. D.   
Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services

SUBJECT: Statement Regarding Parental Opt Out of Assessments

This memo provides the official position of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and supersedes any previous communication regarding "parental opt out." The MDE understands and respects the rights of parents to make all manner of choices regarding the education of their students. However, there is no official ability in state or federal law for parents to have their child 'opt out' of the assessments, without counting against their school and district's participation rates. Please also remember that any student in a Michigan public school is being taught Michigan content standards, and this is simply an opportunity to understand their progress in learning those standards.

For more information on the participation requirement for schools and districts, please see the article in the March 12, 2015 Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spotlight\\_Week\\_3-12-15\\_483997\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spotlight_Week_3-12-15_483997_7.pdf) or the direct link to the resource here

[http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/Participation\\_in\\_State\\_Assessment\\_Programs\\_for\\_Michigan\\_Public\\_Schools\\_482861\\_7.pdf](http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/Participation_in_State_Assessment_Programs_for_Michigan_Public_Schools_482861_7.pdf).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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