

**State of Ohio Student Assessments and Ohio's New Learning Standards**  
**Wadsworth City School District**  
**February 12, 2015**

**Does the Wadsworth City School District have to follow the new Ohio Learning Standards?**

The short answer is “no”, according to [Ohio Revised Code \(O.R.C.\) 3301.079 Academic Standards- Model Curriculum](#). The long answer is this same section of O.R.C. requires assessments be created at the state level based upon the state model curriculum and [O.R.C. 3301.0715 District Board to Administer Diagnostic Assessments-Intervention](#), requires all public school districts to administer the state developed assessments. The results of these assessments directly impact public school districts on their state report card ratings, teacher evaluation ratings and funding (state and federal). As a result, most (if not all) public school districts in Ohio use the new Ohio Learning Standards.

**Can the Wadsworth City School District choose to administer a different student assessment than the ones prescribed by Ohio Revised Code?**

No. See answer above for more detail.

**If I opt my child out of state testing, what negative consequences could that have on my child?**

If your child is in third grade, he/she must take and score at or above the designated score on the state reading assessment in order to be promoted to fourth grade. The only exceptions to this are students whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) do not permit retention or students who score higher than the cut score on one (1) of the alternate tests allowed by the state (Wadsworth uses the MAP test as an alternate).

If your child entered high school for the first time prior to July 1, 2014, he/she must take and pass all of the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGTs), in addition to other graduation requirements, in order to receive a high school diploma.

If your child entered high school on or after July 1, 2014, he/she must “take and reach the needed score on the tests for at least one graduation option” (Ohio Department of Education (ODE), 2015), in addition to other graduation requirements, in order to receive a high school diploma. Please see the [Information on Student Participation in State Tests](#) document created by the ODE for further detail on the different graduation pathways.

**If I opt my child out of state testing, what negative consequences could that have for my child's teacher(s) and principal?**

[O.R.C. 3319.112 Standards-Based State Framework for the Evaluation of Teachers](#) and [O.R.C. 3319.02 Assistant Superintendents and Other Administrators](#) establishes that part of a teacher or principal's evaluation is based upon student achievement, determined by student growth as measured by state assessments. Students who do not test will be counted as a zero (0) for accountability purposes, meaning they won't be included in any growth calculation for evaluation.

**If I opt my child out of state testing, what negative consequences could that have for my child's school district?**

The following is taken from the ODE:

Districts and schools receive no credit when a student doesn't participate in state testing, which can negatively impact a district's state A-F report card ratings.

- a. Families and businesses often consult A-F ratings in choosing where to live, locate a business and how to vote on tax levies.
- b. These ratings also impact school choice programs, flexibility on how funding is spent and which schools receive extra help from the state.
- c. If student participation in a district drops below 95 percent overall or for specific subgroups of students, the district could face new restrictions on how it spends its money pursuant to federal law.

In addition, [O.R.C. 3317.03 Report of Average Daily Membership Figures and Additional Data](#) and [O.R.C. 3301-13-04 Establishing Provisions for a Waiver by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) specify that a public school district may not include in their student count used for state funding a student who did not take all of the assessments the preceding school year as defined in O.R.C. While no one is certain if the State of Ohio will withhold funding for students who opt out, if they did, that would mean a loss of \$3,598/student for our district.

**What about the Safe Harbor Provisions signed into law last year for districts?**

[O.R.C. 3302.036 Report Card Rankings; Use; Exemptions](#) specifies that "report card ratings issued for the 2014-2015 school year shall not be considered in determining whether a school district or a school is subject to sanctions or penalties". The exemptions listed for school districts under the section of O.R.C. do not mention the financial sanctions listed above.

**Has the Wadsworth City School District entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Wadsworth Education Association (WEA) to protect teachers from decisions on teacher dismissal, retention, tenure or compensation being made on the value-added progress dimension rating based on the results of state tests during the 2014-2015 school year?**

No, because the following language is found in the *Negotiated Agreement* between the WEA and the Wadsworth City School District Board of Education,

The student growth component of the evaluation procedure contained in this agreement shall not be used in any decision concerning the retention or removal of any teacher until two (2) years of data have been collected and two (2) evaluation cycles have been completed.

Even though employment decisions will not be made for teachers based upon this testing data, [O.R.C. 3319.111 Applicability of Section; Evaluating Teachers on Limited Contracts](#) requires that, "the board annually shall report to the department of education the number of teachers for whom an evaluation was conducted under this section and the number of teachers assigned each rating prescribed under

division (B)(1) of section 3319.112 of the Revised Code, aggregated by the teacher preparation programs from which and the years in which the teachers graduated. The department shall establish guidelines for reporting the information required by this division. The guidelines shall not permit or require that the name of, or any other personally identifiable information about, any teacher be reported under this division.”

### **What provisions are in the law to protect my child’s data privacy?**

Effective September 17, 2014, O.R.C. 3301.947 Privacy of Data during Testing states the following:

“Data collected in the course of testing under sections 3301.079, 3301.0710, 3301.0711, and 3301.0712 of the Revised Code shall be used for the sole purpose of measuring and improving the academic progress and needs of students, educators, school districts, and schools. In the course of such testing, no student's or a student's family's social security numbers, religious affiliation, political party affiliation, voting history, or biometric information shall be collected, tracked, housed with, reported to, or shared with any entity, including the federal or state government.”

In addition, you can read about the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) data privacy policies by clicking [here](#).

### **What is the status of recently introduced Ohio House Bill 7, known as the Student Safe Harbor law?**

[Ohio House Bill 7](#) passed by a vote in the Ohio House of Representatives on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Next, the bill moves to the Ohio Senate for consideration.

### **Other Questions?**

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