

**Delaware System of Student Assessments (DeSSA)**

**Assessment Exemption**

**2025-2026 School Year**

In order to ensure consistent policies across reporting systems, the Department of Education has established the following rules to determine whether students can be exempted from participation in one or more DeSSA assessments. Any student enrolled in a Delaware public district/school for the Full Academic Year (FAY) and who does not meet any other exemption criteria is a full-time student of the district/school and is a part of the school's general population. The public school in which a student is enrolled remains the responsible party for FAPE (Fair and Adequate Public Education).

Any special exemption granted by the Department is limited to the assessment period for which it was requested and does not carry forward to future assessment administrations. Students who are granted a special exemption shall not be included in the participation rate calculation for school and district accountability. [Regulation 101, State Assessment System](#) provides the framework for these rules.

**Submitting Exemption Requests**

- Use the Department of Education approved application to submit exemption requests.
- District Test Coordinators are responsible for approving each student exemption request.
- Submit all exemption requests by identified due dates.

**Valid Exemption Reasons**

- Any student who is incarcerated in an adult prison.
- Any student suffering from severe illness or injuries or has recently experienced severe traumatic events.
- Any student who has a medical exemption from a licensed doctor stating that the student is unable to test before the end of the window. Medical exemption requests must include an assurance by the District Test Coordinator that documentation is on file.
- Any student enrolled in the last two calendar weeks of the test window or left the state/country during the testing window.
- Homebound ALT students because paper/pencil is not available.

### **Invalid Exemption Reasons**

- Incorrect or insufficient information is provided.
- Student is enrolled in a virtual academy.
- Absence/Truancy – a student remains the responsibility of the district/school while on the roster.
- Alternative education setting - a student remains the responsibility of the district/school while on the roster.
- Students who are provided homebound instruction for medical or behavioral reasons may be tested with paper/pencil rather than online. A medical excuse must state that the student is excused from state testing rather than homebound.
- Parent refusal (opt out) – a student remains the responsibility of the district/school while on the roster.
- Foreign exchange students – a student remains the responsibility of the district/school while on the roster.