



THOMAS MACLAREN SCHOOL

Policy SY16-17.1 Parent Refusal Policy **APPROVED October 22, 2016**

In compliance with HB 15-1323 Thomas MacLaren has created the following Parent Refusal Policy:

Thomas MacLaren School administers state testing as mandated by the School Finance Act. We are not able, as a charter public school, to opt out of testing.

Parents may refuse state testing for their children without penalty, including prohibiting school attendance, imposing an unexcused absence, or prohibiting participation in extracurricular activities.

State assessments include the following:

- Colorado Measure of Academic Success:
 - English Language Arts
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies
- PSAT-10
- SAT-11

Local interim assessments such as MAPs tests and the ACCESS test are not included in this policy.

Parent refusals do not affect a school's accreditation rating as long as refusals are clearly documented and submitted to CDE. MacLaren's participation rates and documentation of excusals are now part of the school accountability reports. Because of the amount of students testing, the variety of tests available for refusal, and the documentation we need to give to our authorizer regarding refusals, **parents must fill out a refusal form for each child for whom testing is being refused.** The refusal paperwork only applies to the current school year; parents must submit this form even if they submitted a form the prior year. As a courtesy, MacLaren requests that any refusals are submitted before the testing window begins.

MacLaren's School Assessment Coordinator will track refusals and reasons for refusals. Hard copies of the refusal form will be kept in the student's cumulative file.