

# Intradistrict Communication

DATE: Thursday, May 11, 2023

TO: All School Administrators

FROM: Carolyn Gough, Administrator of Teaching and Learning  
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SUBJECT: State Testing Reminders

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The following are friendly reminders from the state's [testing ethics policy](#):

- “Utah LEAs and Licensed Utah educators may use a student’s score from a statewide assessment to improve the student’s academic grade for or demonstrate the student’s competency within a relevant course.”
- “Licensed Utah educators shall ensure that:
  - “Students are not penalized who have been exempted by a parent from a statewide assessment
  - “Students aren’t provided a nonacademic award for participating in or performing well on a statewide assessment
  - “Students are provided an alternate learning activity if they are exempted by a parent from a statewide assessment”

The following additional guidance may help address specific questions that arise from the part of the state’s testing ethics policy quoted above:

- Using a student’s score from a state assessment can only improve a student’s grade – not hurt it.
- Educators may not use a student’s score on a state assessment to determine an overall grade for the course. It can be used in conjunction with other evidence to help determine a student’s overall grade.
- Educators may not assign participation points on students’ grades for taking a state assessment.
- The alternate learning activity for students whose parents have opted them out of taking the state assessment can be an alternate assessment. That said, using a student’s score on the alternate assessment or activity on a student’s grade can only improve the student’s grade – not hurt it.