

Common Core Standards in Western States and Assessment Opt-Out Policies

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Forty-three states in the country have adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), including twelve out of the thirteen Western States. Alaska is the only Western State that has not adopted the CCSS.

Western State	Adopted Date	Adopted By	Full Implementation
Alaska	Not Adopted		
Arizona	June 28, 2010	Arizona State Board of Education	2013-14 School Year *
California	August 2, 2010	California State Board of Education	2014-15 School Year *
Colorado	August 2, 2010	Colorado State Board of Education	2013-14 School Year *
Hawaii	June 18, 2010	Hawaii Department of Education	2013-14 School Year *
Idaho	January 24, 2011	Superintendent Tom Luna and Governor	2013-14 School Year *
Montana	November 4, 2011	Montana Board of Education	2013-14 School Year *
Nevada	June 22, 2010	Nevada Department of Education	2013-14 School Year *
New Mexico	November 29, 2010	The New Mexico Public Education Department	2013-14 School Year *
Oregon	October 29, 2010	Oregon Board of Education	2014-15 School Year *
Utah	August 8, 2010	Utah State Office of Education	2013-14 School Year *
Washington	July 20, 2011	Superintendent Randy Dorn	2014-15 School Year *
Wyoming	June 16, 2012	Wyoming Department of Education	2014-15 School Year *

Source: Common Core States Standards Initiative <http://www.corestandards.org/standards-in-your-state/>

Each state on the table above is linked to their respective Common Core State Standards website.

Skeptical parents of the benefits of standardized testing continue to push to opt-out their children from the assessments; however there is no clear and defined policy on opting-out from state assessments. State policies vary from state to state. California and Utah, for example, allows parents to opt their children out of the state assessments, while Hawaii requires all students to participate in the state assessments.

The table below shows where the rest Western States stand with their opt-out policies.

Western State	Opt-out Policy
Alaska	N/A – Alaska has not adopted CCSS
Arizona	Per state and federal policies, parents may not allow students to opt-out of state assessments
California	Allows parents to opt their children out of state assessments for any reason, through a written request.

Colorado	Current motion may exempt districts from any penalty if fewer than 95 percent of students participate in testing this spring (2015).
Hawaii	Require all students to participate in state assessments.
Idaho	Does not have clear policy for allowing students to opt-out of state assessments; districts may have some discretion in making their own decisions.
Montana	No information found.
Nevada	Allowed parents to opt out of 2013 state assessments field testing. No further information was found.
New Mexico	Federal and state law requires all students to participate in state assessments; participation counts against the school for A-F School Grades – except for students with state medical exemptions.
Oregon	Excuses students from state assessments to accommodate religious beliefs.
Utah	Allows parents to opt their children out of state assessments for any reason.
Washington	Parents may opt-out their children from taking tests, but high school students must pass certain state assessments before graduating.
Wyoming	Districts are required to assess all eligible students and students may not opt out of assessment.

Source: Education Commission of the States: Assessment Opt-Out Policies: State responses to parent pushback, <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/17/68/11768.pdf>