

## Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE)

SAGE is a series of online formative and summative tests designed to measure students' understanding of Utah's Core Standards in English language arts, mathematics, and science. SAGE formative assessments are used to ***monitor*** student learning and provide teachers feedback that can be used to guide and improve their teaching during the current school year. The year-end SAGE summative assessment is used to ***evaluate*** student learning at the end of their grade level instruction. Summative assessment results can help teachers and administrators plan for future instructional activities and student supports.

State law requires all public schools (district and charter) to administer SAGE and other mandated assessments as detailed in state statute to students in grades 3-11. ([http://le.utah.gov/code/TITLE53A/htm/53A01\\_061100.htm](http://le.utah.gov/code/TITLE53A/htm/53A01_061100.htm)). These assessment results provide us with important longitudinal data about student learning. This information guides our teacher's classroom instruction and ensures that adjustments can be made for remediation or acceleration based on the individual needs of students.

State mandated summative testing is not new; however, the SAGE assessment is different from prior benchmark tests in that it goes beyond subject area content knowledge to provide important insight on students' analytical and problem solving skills. It also includes many powerful new tools to help educators effectively use student results to drive classroom instruction.

Utah state law allows parents to opt their student out of the year-end summative SAGE test. Opt-out requests must be submitted annually. Therefore, parents may only opt-out their student from the 2014-15 SAGE summative test at this time. Parents may not opt-out a student from the formative assessments conducted prior to the year-end summative test.

We have prepared a FAQ document regarding SAGE that contains additional details regarding the test. If you are considering opting your student out of the SAGE test for the 2014-2015 school year please be sure to read all of the FAQ before doing so to ensure you are fully informed of your options.

## **RENAISSANCE ACADEMY END OF YEAR TESTING FAQ**

### **Is my student required to take the SAGE test?**

No. However, Renaissance Academy is required to administer the test and is accountable for both student participation and proficiency. Here is a link to the state's participation policy.

[http://sageportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Portal\\_CMS\\_Tutorial\\_Resource.pdf](http://sageportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Portal_CMS_Tutorial_Resource.pdf)

### **How do I opt my student out of taking the SAGE assessment?**

You must complete the Renaissance Academy 2014-15 opt-out form. This form will be posted on the school website and FEC Facebook page by Friday January 30, 2015.

### **If I opt out my student will it affect my child's grades?**

No. There is no impact on student's class grades. Likewise, extra credit or participation points are not awarded to students who take the test.

### **What repercussions are there for Renaissance Academy and/or my student if we choose to opt out of the 2014-15 SAGE assessment?**

It depends whether the student is absent from school during testing OR whether they attend school but opt-out and do not participate in the assessment. The consequences for each scenario are detailed in the state's Student Test Participation Policy. Here is a summary:

If a student *is absent from school* during test administration:

1. The absence will count against the school when calculating its percentage of student participation. Utah code 53A-1-1110 requires schools to have 95% participation on state mandated tests. Schools who have less than 95% participation will receive a school grade of "F".
2. The absent student does not receive a test score and is not included in the school's proficiency/achievement calculation.

If a student *attends school* during the test administration *but opts not to participate* in testing:

1. There is no impact on the school's participation percentage for the purposes of determining compliance with the 95% statutory requirement.
2. The student receives a non-proficient score (1 out of 5). The score will also be included in the school's proficiency/achievement calculations.

### **Will opting my student out of the assessment ensure that their data is not transmitted to the federal government?**

No. All students in a public school are included in the aggregate data submitted to the federal government whether or not they take the assessment. Aggregate data is state, district, school and grade level data. It does not include student level data. The state office of education has reported aggregate data to the federal government since the 1970s. Neither the new Core Standards nor the SAGE assessment changes these data collection requirements.

### **When will Renaissance administer the SAGE test?**

Testing will begin the weeks of Monday February 9 - 20 (SAGE Writing) and Monday May 4 - 29 (Math, Science, Language Arts (Reading, Language, Listening)). We have until May 29<sup>th</sup> to administer the test to students in grades 3-9. The Math, Science and Language Arts (Reading, Language, Listening) tests require one test session of approximately 90 - 135 minutes to complete. Language Arts (Writing) requires two 90-minute writing sessions.

### **How much class time is spent preparing for the SAGE assessment test?**

The SAGE test is a summative assessment. It is designed measure student proficiency of the state standards which are the foundation of teachers daily instructional planning The only specific time allocated to test preparation is the use of computer labs for practice tests. Since the format of the test now requires students to type their answers and navigate other more complex tasks to answer questions we have required all teachers to use the SAGE practice assessment tool with their students to familiarize them with the test format.

### **As a parent can I preview the SAGE test questions?**

The questions are not available publically. However, if you are interested in understanding the nature of the test you can take some training modules online. The training tests can be found at <http://sageportal.org/training-tests/>. You can access the portal with Username: guest Password: guest