

The Law on Opting Out of STAR Testing and on Opting Out of Military Recruiting

California Education Code Section 60615.

"Notwithstanding any provision of law, a parent's or guardian's written request to school officials to excuse his or her child from any or all parts of the assessments administered pursuant to this chapter shall be granted."

The reference is Title 5 of the CA

Code of Regulations, Division 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter 3.75

"Standardized Testing and Reporting Program", Section 852, (a).

It's under "more about STAR" on the SED website.

“(a) A parent or guardian may submit to the school a written request to excuse his or her child from any or all parts of any test provided pursuant to Education Code section 60640. A school district and its employees may discuss the Standardized Testing and Reporting program with parents and may inform parents of the availability of exemptions under Education Code section 60615. However, the school district and its employees shall not solicit or encourage any written exemption request on behalf of any child or group of children.”

This is from a memo re: what we can say to parents:

Date: February 27, 2001

To: District and County Superintendents

From: Phil Spears, Director, Standards and Assessment Division, CA Dept. of Ed

Subject: Update on Standards and Assessment—February 2001

p. 7 “The Board adopted the STAR Title 5 Regulations as permanent. Major changes in these permanent regulations include: stating explicitly that a school district and its employees may discuss the Standardized Testing and Reporting program with parents and may inform parents of the availability of exemptions under Education Code Section 60615.”

Harman spoke with Jan Chladek, Manager of the STAR program (916-319-0575), on 9/11/07, who confirmed that there have been no changes to the above.

Military recruiting: Parents, guardians, and students 18 or older may also opt out of the NCLB requirement that high schools give military recruiters personal information:

Public Law 107-110, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

SEC. 9528. ARMED FORCES RECRUITER ACCESS TO STUDENTS AND STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION.

“(2) CONSENT- A secondary school student or the parent of the student may request that the student's name, address, and telephone listing described in paragraph (1) not be released without prior written parental consent, and the local educational agency or private school shall notify parents of the option to make a request and shall comply with any request.”

Project YANO (Youth and Non-Military Opportunities) has an opt out form in Spanish and English:

http://www.projectyano.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=43&Itemid=76

Veterans for Peace Chapter 56, Humboldt, CA has written a terrific brochure called *Advice from Veterans on Military Service and Recruiting Practices: a Resource Guide for Young People Considering Enlistment*. It's at www.vfp56.org