



Highlights from February 22nd, 2024 Board of Directors' Special Meeting

Board Member Resignation and Vacancy

Joe Buczkowski resigned from the Monument Academy Board on February 12th, 2024. On February 22nd, the board approved by unanimous consent to operate as a six member board through June 30, 2024. The board is currently receiving candidate applications and will be holding an election to fill two board seats, one of which is the seat of Mr. Buczkowski. After the board elections and commencing July 1, 2024 the board will resume as a 7 member board.

Board Member Positions and Committees

- Craig Carle was nominated to be the new Treasurer through June 30, 2024. Board Member officer positions for the 24-25 fiscal school year which begins July 1, 2024 will be determined at the June 2024 regular board meeting.
- Mr. Carle will replace Mr. Buczkowski as the MA board representative on the Monument Academy Foundation Board and Monument Academy Building Corp Board in accordance with the bylaws of each respective organization.
- Craig Carle and Ryan Graham will be the sitting board members on the Finance committee.
- Emily Belisle and Lindsay Clinton will be the sitting board members on the Curriculum committee.
- Karen Hoida and Emily Belisle will be the sitting board members on the Policy/Governance Committee.

2024 State Assessment Opt-Outs and Policy 1525 State Assessments Refusal Policy Redlines (Presentation and Discussion Only)

MA Assessment Coordinator, Anna Arndt, presented on recent changes made to the state assessment process including rules around scoring tests started but not completed by students. Please see below for a letter posted on ParentSquare by Ms. Arndt on February 23rd providing further information.

She also provided suggested redlines for the governance/policy to review with legal counsel before bringing back to the board for approval consideration. Please see below for the proposed redlines.

What's coming up?

- **February 28th, 2024: Cafe Chat** with Board Directors Craig Carle and Karen Hoida at Serrano's Coffee from 8:30-9:30am. [Please click here to RSVP.](#)
- March 11th, 2024: Board Regular Meeting 6:30 pm @ MA East Campus.

February 23, 2024

Dear MA Parents/Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you well. Each spring, Colorado students in grades 3 through 11 participate in state assessments. These assessments provide valuable insights into our students' strengths and areas for improvement. Additionally, they contribute to our district and school's state performance frameworks. While we realize state assessments are a topic that may generate multiple viewpoints and opinions, we recognize their value to helping our teachers and staff monitor how we are serving every student, every day, as well as maintaining Monument Academy as a high-quality school of choice for our community.

Recently, the Colorado Department of Education announced a policy change for CMAS (Colorado Measures of Academic Success) that we feel is important our families are clearly informed of. In the past, if a child was opted-out of the CMAS assessments after starting, their test would be coded as "void" to indicate that no scoring should happen for that student. The new policy, known as "Attemptedness", changes this. We want families to understand that students will receive a score if they begin, but then opt out of, a CMAS state assessment. Unfortunately, if this happens, the score tied to that student would not be indicative of their actual ability, but it would be tied to their records and impact the school's performance framework as well. Due to this rule change at the state level, we ask that any student who begins a CMAS state assessment to please complete it.

Additionally, because of this new policy, our team is working with the Board of Directors to update our state testing parent refusal policy, which includes the form and process for opting out of state assessments. We want to be clear that we are not changing anything regarding families' rights to opt a student out of state assessments, as we whole-heartedly respect your rights to make this choice for your child(ren). **The Governance Committee will review the policy and form change recommendations, and the Board will make a final determination as to our process at the March 14th meeting.** At that time, we will update our families on the process, including the forms we will use for this year's assessment parent refusals.

The state assessment testing window will begin immediately following Spring Break, and we wish your students well as they embark upon these assessments. Please remember we are here to support you and see each and every one of our students succeed. Thank you for your continued support in this great work of our children's education!

In partnership,
The Monument Academy Team



Monument Academy

Board of Directors Governance and Policy

Policy Area: Governance	Policy #: 1525
Title: State Assessments Refusal Policy	Adopted: August 20, 2015 Revised: February 8, 2018 Revised: March 11, 2021 Revised: June 9, 2022

I. Issue Statement

- A. Monument Academy was founded by a group of parents who believed that they could create a school where high academic standards, small class sizes, respect, accountability, and responsibility were valued and emphasized. Their belief was grounded in the idea that a student's parent or guardian knew what was best for their child's education.
- B. The Board of Directors wishes to stay true to that vision by adopting a written policy outlining the process for a parent/guardian to exercise their choice concerning their child's participation in state-mandated assessments.

II. Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS) Requirements

- A. As stated in CRS 22-7-1013(8)(a), each local education provider shall adopt and implement a written policy and procedure by which a student's parent may excuse the student from participating in one or more of the state assessments administered pursuant to Section 22-7-1006.3.
- B. As stated in CRS 22-7-1013(8)(b), if a parent excuses his or her student from participating in a state assessment, a local education provider shall not impose negative consequences, including prohibiting school attendance, imposing an unexcused absence, or prohibiting participation in extracurricular activities, on the student or on the parent.

III. Policy Statement

- A. Parents/Guardians may choose to excuse their student(s) from participation in the state-mandated standardized tests by submitting the ~~electronic-~~ "Assessment District #38 and Monument Academy "Parent Refusal" form(s) available on the school's website or by hard copy from the school's front office. All refusals must be submitted to the Principal or the School Assessment Coordinator prior to the start of testing. no less than 3 days before the day of testing. All refusals must be submitted electronically, paper submissions will not be accepted.
- B. As a result of not participating, the student(s) will not be subject to any negative consequences including, but not limited to, prohibition of school attendance, imposition of an unexcused absence, or prohibition of participation in extra-curricular activities."

B-C. If a Parent/Guardian chooses to excuse their student(s) from testing once it has begun, they will be counseled to the potential effects resulting from state reporting policy and supplied with the Parent Refusal form by an administrator to be signed immediately.

IV. Related Documents

- A. Colorado Revised Statutes 22-7-1006.3
- B. Colorado Revised Statutes 22-7-1013(8)(a)
- C. Colorado Revised Statutes 22-7-1013(8)(b)

V. Points of Contact

- A. The following positions shall serve as points of contact for the enforcement of this policy: President of the Board of Directors and the Chief Operating Officer.