

**POLICY RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**STANDARDIZED TESTING**

Throughout their education, students will take selected standardized tests. A standardized test is one that is administered under uniform and controlled conditions. This ensures that any difference in scores (pre- and post-results, between students, etc.) reflects differences in knowledge and skills, rather than differences in unrelated factors such as test conditions. These tests are one of many ways educators assess what students know and can do. This can include paper-based or computer-based tests, oral and written tasks, classroom observations and portfolios of student work. These measures are used to monitor progress, refine instructional practices and improve the school district's capacity to ensure that all students reach and exceed grade-level expectations and graduate from the Wachusett Regional School District career and/or college ready. Students who refuse to participate in or whose parents refuse to have their child(ren) participate in—state or district standardized assessments will not be academically penalized or face disciplinary action, except as required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or by the United States.

The Wachusett Regional School District is committed to an effective use of data-driven decision-making that leads to high levels of achievement for every student. Summative, formative and anecdotal data are used to form a picture of student performance. Continuous improvement of teaching and learning results from the strategic use of data.

First Reading: 02/10/14

Second Reading: 02/24/14

Amendment First Reading: 04/07/14

Amendment Second Reading: 05/21/14

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