

MELBA HIGH SCHOOL
HOME OF THE *MUSTANGS*

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April 6, 2015

Mr. and Mrs. Cummins:

The Melba School District has determined that all students in the grade-ranges required for the state's standardized assessment program will test. This includes the administration of the SBAC/ISAT-2. The Idaho Administrative Procedures Act Section 08.02.03.111.04 requires that all students in Idaho public schools, grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) are required to participate in the comprehensive assessment program approved by the State Board of Education. The only waiver we will recognize to not take the test must be from the Idaho State Department of Education. Because of the district's accountability requirements we will test students if they are here during the testing period. The window opens March 31 and closes May 22nd. We have our tests scheduled to occur on April 20 – April 29 and the Biology test will be given on May 6 and 7. Make-up tests will be given to students that miss a test date during the testing window. These will occur on April 30 and May 4.

While we acknowledge your position, our obligation as a District is to follow the various applicable laws in the operation of our schools. When we disagree with those laws we work to impact change through working with our professional associations, testifying in committee hearings, as well as voting consistently with our personal conviction. Until the laws are changed, we will take steps necessary to follow our legal and ethical obligations. Please do understand that this is not a District requirement or something that the District can control but we consider it an obligation of ethical practice and legal requirement to comply with our testing mandates as a District.

Accordingly, if your child is in attendance on the dates we will be administering our testing; your child will be expected to test. If your child is not present, obviously your child will not take the test. We are not and will not be providing alternative educational activities for students who are at school on the day of the test and choose not to participate. Given our limited personnel and resources, educational alternatives are simply not a viable possibility.

We appreciate when our patrons provide us with their thoughts regarding matters relevant to our school. There is the possibility that this testing mandate will change for the 2015-2016 school year due to required updates in the state's NCLB waiver. As information regarding any change is provided from the SDE we will make it available to the parents.

Thank you

Eric Forsgren
Principal