



STATE-APPROVED SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

FORM 3A (Attachment): Information for the Treating Physician / Mental Health Worker

“Request for Exemption due to Medical Reasons or Personal Crisis”

Each year, students with very serious, chronic, and fragile medical or other conditions can and do participate successfully in Rhode Island’s statewide assessments (e.g., NECAP and RIAA). However, there are rare and unique situations in which a student is unable to participate in any part of statewide assessments. Such decisions must be made with the greatest care and restraint. The Rhode Island Department of Education’s policy is that every eligible student must participate in Rhode Island’s statewide assessments unless he/she qualifies for special consideration/exemption from testing.

RULE OF THUMB: *If the student is able to receive instruction, then he/she is able to participate in the NECAP or RIAA assessments.*

Medical Emergency:

In rare instances, a student may be unable to complete or participate in any part of the statewide assessments due to a documented, significant, and fully incapacitating medical emergency or emotional trauma that extends across the entire (or remaining) test window. In order to qualify for state-approved special consideration, the incident or condition must be so severe as to prevent the student from participating in instruction offered either at school or at home other out-placement facility. Sometimes a medical emergency or emotional trauma requires a student to be hospitalized. In cases such as this, the student’s condition must be identified and verified in writing by a licensed physician or mental health worker and this documentation must be kept on file by the local district.

Conditions that DO NOT qualify for exemption:

- ✗ *Medical Fragility* – All “medically fragile” students are expected to participate in statewide assessment unless a significant and documented medical emergency exists *in addition to medical fragility*
- ✗ District-provided home-based educational programs (student remains enrolled in district)
- ✗ Pregnancy
- ✗ Students with acute, short-term minor illnesses or injuries
- ✗ Students placed in correctional facilities
- ✗ Students receiving educational services at an out-placement facility
- ✗ Student or Parent refusal to test
- ✗ Mental health conditions that permit students to receive instruction