

It can be much more difficult to navigate refusing computer assessments (iReady, NWEA, Aimsweb, STAR). Since these tests can be administered at any time on any day, it's not as simple as keeping your child out of school to avoid the assessment.

The first step is talking to your teacher and expressing your wishes not to have your child test on the computer.

Request an alternate authentic assessment administered by the teacher, not the computer. If you are told there is no other option, again express that you do not want to allow your child assessed on a computer.

Depending on the level of pushback you have a few choices here.

For example, I myself was told by the school principal that refusing the iReady assessment was not an option. I calmly stated that I was not asking for permission, but merely expressing my intent my child would not be tested. I then spoke with the teacher and expressed to her that my son would not be allowed to test on the computer. The teachers are certainly much more understanding and willing to comply with parents' wishes. On the day of testing my son was given a book and read while the other students tested. If the teacher had said she could not comply because of pressure from administrators, I would have escalated the situation. My son was prepared to refuse to take this test as well. He was confident enough to say to the teacher, "I'm sorry but my mom and dad won't let me take this." If he was uncomfortable, I would have met with the teacher in front of my son (and principal if necessary) and said to my son in front of the teacher, "I have let Mrs. _____ know that I won't let you take the computer test tomorrow." This takes it off the child and puts it in adult hands. Most educators at that point would never force the child to take it. As they get older this scenario is much more simple. I also felt it was a good lesson for my son to learn to advocate for himself. The middle/high schools have even offered alternate authentic assessments to both my kids in place of the Achieve3000 computer test.

So while there's no documentation that states a child can refuse to participate in a computer assessment, there's no document that says they cannot either.

Administrators may consider this "classroom work" and claim it can't be refused. However, any child can refuse to do anything at school. If they refused to run in gym class, the gym teacher would not stand over them insisting they get up and run. They would simply get no credit that day for class. Same thing here - say you will take whatever consequence on the participation grade they wish to give, but that your child just simply isn't going to take the test.