

**Curricular Exemptions****Mandatory Curricular Exemptions**

Upon the written request of a parent/guardian received by the Bethany Public School District (District) prior to planned instruction in the areas set forth below, the Bethany Board of Education (Board) shall permit curricular exemptions for instruction in the following areas:

1. Dissection;
2. Family Life Education;
3. HIV/AIDS; or
4. Sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program (effective upon the implementation of the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program identified or developed by the state).

**Definitions**

“Dissection Instruction” is defined as instruction in which a student must participate in, or observe, the dissection of any animal.

“Family Life Education Instruction” is defined as instruction pertaining to family planning, human sexuality, parenting, nutrition, and the emotional, physical, psychological, hygienic, economic, and social aspects of family life.

“HIV/AIDS Instruction” is defined as ongoing and systematic instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) offered by the District pursuant to state law.

“Sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program” is defined as the state-wide program identified or developed by the Department of Children and Families, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. (or a similar entity) that includes age-appropriate educational materials designed for children in grades kindergarten to six (6), inclusive, regarding child sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention that may include, but not be limited to, A) the skills to recognize: i) child sexual abuse and assault, ii) boundary violations and unwanted forms of touching and contact, and iii) ways offenders groom or desensitize victims, and B) strategies to: i) promote disclosure, ii) reduce self-blame, and (iii) mobilize bystanders.

**Written Request for Mandatory Exemption**

Parents/Guardians who wish to exercise such exemptions must notify the District in writing within the first two (2) weeks of school.

**Permissive Curricular Exemptions**

Except for the mandatory curricular exemptions noted above, or otherwise required by law, the Board does not require teachers to exempt students from any other aspect of the curriculum.

**Alternative Assignments**

1. Any student excused from participating in, or observing, the dissection of any animal as part of classroom instruction shall be required to complete an alternate assignment to be determined by the teacher.
2. Any student excused from participating in the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program shall be provided, during the period of time in which the student would otherwise be participating in such program, an opportunity for other study or academic work as determined by the teacher.
3. Any student excused from any other aspect of the curriculum may be required by the teacher to complete an alternative assignment as determined by the teacher.

Legal Reference:            Connecticut General Statutes § 10-16b  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-16c  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-16e  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-18d  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 17a-101q  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-19b  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-19q

Policy adopted:            September 9, 1998  
Policy revised:            June 10, 2015  
Policy revised:            March 9, 2016  
Policy revised:            November 9, 2016  
Policy revised:            December 9, 2020

Source: Shipman

## Curricular Exemption Request Form

I request that my child, \_\_\_\_\_, be exempted from instruction in the following areas:

Check all that apply:

- Dissection
- Family life education
- HIV/AIDS
- Sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program

I recognize that teachers may require my child to complete alternative assignments in lieu of the curricular instruction planned in the area of exemption.

This form must be completed annually and returned to the school principal by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date 2 weeks from the start of school).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date