

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: EXEMPTION FROM
INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED: April 23, 2012

REVISED:

<p>1. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.4, 11.7</p> <p>2. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>3. Guidelines</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">105.2. EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION</p> <p>The Board adopts this policy to ensure that parents/guardians have the right to have their children excused from specific instruction that conflicts with their religious beliefs.</p> <p>The rights granted by this policy are granted to parents/guardians of students enrolled in this district when the students are under the age of eighteen (18) and to the students themselves when the student is eighteen (18) or over.</p> <p>The Board directs the Superintendent and administration to respond to parental requests for exemption from specific instruction using the following guidelines, in accordance with applicable state regulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain the expectation that all students complete the curriculum requirements established by the Board, in conjunction with applicable state regulations. 2. Deny all requests that are so general and pervasive in nature as to prevent achieving established curriculum requirements or that are simply impossible to administer. 3. Evaluate all requests to ensure that the specific instruction to which there are objections do not violate the protections of applicable laws. <p>The district shall excuse any student from specific instruction, subject to the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To assist the school district in ensuring that the student is excused from the correct specific instruction, the request must be made in writing and must detail the specific instruction from which the student is to be excused. 2. Parents/Guardians who request an exemption from specific instruction for their child(ren) shall complete the required district form and submit the form to the building principal.
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<p>Pol. 102, 217</p>	<p>One (1) copy of the request form shall be retained in the student's permanent school records, one (1) copy kept by the school principal, and one (1) copy submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. The building principal shall review the request for exemption and notify parents/guardians of his/her recommendations within ten (10) days.4. Parents/Guardians in disagreement with the principal's decision may appeal to the Superintendent, who shall review and respond to the parental written request within ten (10) days.5. It shall not be the responsibility of the district or any of its employees to ensure that the student exercises his/her right to be excused in accordance with a parental request. It shall be the responsibility of the student to request permission to leave class when the specific instruction objected to is presented. <p>When the student seeks to be excused, the teacher shall excuse the student if the teacher or principal has a copy of the written request and the written request adequately describes the specific instruction.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. The written request must contain a statement that the specific instruction described conflicts with the religious beliefs of the student or of the parents/guardians.7. The parent/guardian and/or student may request suggested replacement educational activities. The only permissible educational activity for this purpose shall be in the nature of replacement instruction that is consistent with the learning objectives set for the course and does not require the provision of any extra resources by the district.8. The building principal shall determine where the student shall report during the time the student is excused.9. All students excused from specific instruction shall be required to achieve the academic standards established by the district as necessary for graduation. <p>References:</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.4, 11.7</p> <p>Board Policy – 000, 102, 217</p>
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