

## Series 6000 – Instruction

### 1. Elementary and Secondary

#### D. Curriculum

##### (4) Controversial Issues

##### (a) Exemption from Instruction

Substance abuse education is required by state statutes for all students annually and students are not exempt.

##### Religious Belief

If the religious belief and/or teachings of a student or his/her parents or guardian are contrary to the content of a school subject, or to any part of a school activity, the student may be exempt from participation. To receive such an exemption, the parent or guardian must present a written request for exemption to the principal stating the conflict involved.

##### Medical

If a student is unable to participate in a physical education class, he/she must present to the principal or designee a statement from a physician or physician's assistant stating the reason for his/her inability to participate.

##### AIDS Instruction

A student will be exempted from the unit of instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) upon receipt of a written request for exemption from his/her parent or guardian.

##### Bilingual Education

A student will be exempted from the bilingual program upon receipt of a written request for exemption from his/her parent or guardian.

##### Dissection of Animals

A student will be exempted from Dissection of Animals upon receipt of a written request for exemption from his/her parent or guardian. Exemptions from required instruction do not excuse a student from the total semester hours required for graduation.

##### Family Life and Sex Education

Students, parents or guardians shall be informed of their right to exempt the student from the family life program. A written notification by the student's parent or legal guardian shall be sufficient to exempt the student from the program in its entirety or from any portion thereof so specified by the parent or legal guardian.

##### Firearm Safety Program

No student shall be required by any local or regional board of education to participate in a firearm safety program which may be offered within the public schools. A written notification to the local or regional board by the student's parent or legal guardian shall be sufficient to exempt the student from such program in its entirety or from any portion thereof so specified by the parent or legal guardian.

Any student excused from a project or unit of study, per this Policy, may be required to complete an alternative assignment, at the discretion of their teacher and/or administrator.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-16b Prescribed courses of study.  
10-16e Students not required to participate in the family life education program.  
10-17f Required bilingual program (as amended by PA 98168).  
10-18C Firearm safety programs. Exemption from participation.  
10-19 Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs & acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Training of personnel.

Policy adopted: March 3, 2009

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy Revised: February 10, 2022

Suffield, Connecticut