

IKDA Religious Objections to Activities

IKDA

A parent or guardian (or a student eighteen years of age or older) may request that the student be excused from participating in activities for religious reasons. The parent, guardian, or adult student must complete the district opt-out form for religious objections, stating the specific activity, the portion of the curriculum in which the activity exists, and the reasons for the request. The request may be granted, or denied, or partially granted and partially denied.

This policy shall not be interpreted to allow parents to prevent the dissemination of information which parents find religiously objectionable. Rather, this policy only extends to actual participation by their child in an activity, the performance of which is contrary to the child's religious teachings.

Approved: January 26, 2004

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A parent or guardian seeking to opt-out their child from activities contrary to the child's religious teachings must complete the district's Activity Participation Opt-Out Form regarding religious objections which is available in the board office. Parents desiring to opt-out their children from activities due to religious reasons must return the completed and signed form to the principal. The form must be submitted within a reasonable amount of time prior to the scheduled activity in order to allow time for the principal to

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consider the request. The completed form shall be kept on file with the principal and the superintendent shall receive a copy.

The principal shall review the request and determine whether the request should be granted or denied. The principal shall notify the parents of the decision within a reasonable amount of time after the request is submitted. If the parents are dissatisfied with the principal's decision, they may appeal, in writing, to the superintendent.

If the opt-out request is granted, students who opt-out of activities for religious reasons may still be required to view the activity, to learn the subject matter of the activity, or to discuss the activity. The student may be reassigned during the activity or given alternative class assignments.

Opt-out requests must be submitted annually and are valid only for the school year in which they are submitted.

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Sample Only: Retype, remove from policy book and file with the clerk.

ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION OPT-OUT FORM

I, _____ (parent/guardian) request that my child,
_____, be excused from participating in certain activities for religious reasons.

From what activity do you wish your child to be excused?

Identify where in the curriculum the activity exists. (Please identify the grade level, class, building.)

For what reason do you wish your child to be excused. (Please state the particular religious objection to this activity, including the religious teaching you believe this activity violates.)

I understand that I am requesting the school to excuse my child from certain activities and that my request is subject to review and determination by the school. I further understand that if my request is granted, my child may still be required to view the activity, discuss the activity or may otherwise be exposed to the subject matter of the activity.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Administrator Signature
Date Received _____