## A. W. BEATTIE CAREER CENTER

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: EXEMPTION FROM

**INSTRUCTION** 

ADOPTED: April 22, 1999

REVISED: February 28, 2013

APPROVED: March 21, 2013

## 105.2 EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

1. Purpose

3. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.4 Pol. 127

3. Guidelines

Pol. 102

The purpose of this policy is to comply with the requirement of the State Board of Education that the Joint Operating Committee adopt policies that assure parents the right to have a student excused from specific instruction which conflicts with their religious beliefs.

The Joint Operating Committee adopts this policy to ensure that parents have the right to have their children excused from specific instruction that conflicts with their religious beliefs.

As used in this policy, the phrase **specific instruction** means identifiable element of instruction by the teacher. It does not include required reading or academic standards.

The rights granted by this policy are granted to parents of students enrolled in A. W. Beattie Career Center where the students are under the age of eighteen (18) and to the students themselves when the student is eighteen (18) or over, unless the student is incapable of making the decision due to a disability.

A. W. Beattie Career Center shall excuse any student from specific instruction, as defined in this policy, upon satisfaction of and subject to the following conditions:

- 1. To assist A. W. Beattie Career Center 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 with respect to which the student is to be excused.
- 2. The written request to be excused shall be sent by the qualifying parent or student to the Executive Director.

One copy of the request shall be retained in the student's permanent school records, and a copy shall be submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.

- 3. It shall not be the responsibility of A. W. Beattie Career Center or any of its officials to ensure that the student exercises his/her right to be excused, and school employees are prohibited from initiating action to have any student leave class in accordance with a parental request. Instead, it is the responsibility of the student to request permission to leave class when the specific instruction objected to is being presented or is about to be presented. When the student seeks to be excused, the teacher shall excuse the student if (a) the teacher has a copy of the written request or, if upon checking with the administrator, she/he has a copy of the written request; and (b) the written request adequately describes the instruction that is taking place or about to take place.
- 4. The written request must contain a statement that the specific instruction described in the written request conflicts with the religious beliefs of the student or of the parents.
- 5. The parent and/or student shall designate on the request to be excused, the replacement educational activities in which the student shall engage during the time the student is excused. The only permissible educational activity for this purpose shall be in the nature of replacement instruction that is consistent with the goals set for the course and that does not require the provision of any extra resources by A. W. Beattie Career Center.
- 6. All students excused from specific instruction shall be required to achieve the academic standards established by A. W. Beattie Career Center as necessary for course/program completion.

PA Code Title 22 Sec. 4.4

Pol. 102