

Instruction

Exemption from Instruction

Religious

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 or designee stating the conflict involved. ~~In the event of religious exemption,~~ If the exemption is for part(s) of music instruction, an alternate music assignment will be provided, when possible. If not possible, another alternate assignment will be required by the school. If the exemption is for swimming, an alternate physical education assignment is required.

Medical

If a student is unable to participate in a physical education class for a medical reason, a written request for exemption ~~they~~ must be presented by the parent or guardian to the nurse principal or designee a statement from a physician stating the reason for their student's inability to participate. An alternate assignment in physical education is required. The specific type of assignment is dependent on the physician's recommendation.

Substance Abuse Education

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

Bilingual Education

A student will be exempted from the bilingual program upon receipt of a written request for exemption from their parent or guardian to the principal or designee. Equivalent instruction, as determined by the teacher will be provided.

Units of Study

Prior to the onset of instruction for the following units of study, parents will be notified when instruction will begin and how to make a written request for exemption.

AIDS Instruction

"AIDS Instruction" is defined as ongoing and systematic instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) offered by the District pursuant to state law. ~~Currently there is no cure for those infected with AIDS, but~~ the Board of Education believes that education is the best way to prevent the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). By learning the facts about AIDS, students will be able to make decisions to keep them healthy and perhaps save their lives. A student will be exempted from instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) upon receipt of a written request for exemption from their parent or guardian to the principal or designee. An alternate health assignment will be provided to the student.

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

Dissection of Animals

A student will be exempted from dissection of animals upon receipt of a written request for exemption ~~from by~~ their parent or guardian to the principal or designee. "Dissection Instruction" Is defined as instruction in which a student must participate in, or observe the dissection of any animal.

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.

Family Life and Education Instruction

"Family Life 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. Students, parents or guardians shall be Informed of their right to exempt the student from the family life ~~program~~ unit of instruction. The student will be exempted upon a written request for exemption from their parent or guardian to the principal or designee.

Any student exempted will be required to complete an alternate health assignment. ~~excused from any aspect of the curriculum may be required by the teacher to complete an alternate assignment.~~

Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program

Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program for students may include, but not be limited to, the skills to recognize child sexual abuse and assault, boundary violations and unwanted forms of touching and contact, and ways offenders groom or desensitize victims, and strategies to promote disclosure, reduce self-blame and mobilize bystanders.

Per Connecticut General Statute Sec. 17a-101q, parents and guardians have the right to opt their child out of lessons pertaining to sexual abuse or sexual assault. A student will be exempted from instruction upon receipt of a written request by the parent or guardian to the principal or designee.

Any student exempted will be required to complete an alternate health assignment.

Exemptions from required instruction do not excuse a student from the total semester hours required for graduation.

(cf. 6141.31 - Bilingual-Bicultural Education)
(cf. 6142.1 - Family Life and Sex Education)
(cf. 6144.2 - Dissection of Animals in the Classroom)

Legal References: s. Connecticut General Statutes

10-16b Prescribed courses of study.

10-16c State board to develop family life education curriculum guides

10-16e Students not required to participate ~~i~~n family life programs

10-17f Required bilingual program (as amended by PA 98-168)

10-18d Animal dissection. Students to be excused from participation or observation.

17a-101q Statewide sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program.

10-19(b) AIDS education.

10-19 Effect of alcohol~~t~~e, nicotine or tobacco and drugs to be taught.

Policy Revised:

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HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Hamden, Connecticut