Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Exemption From Instruction
Code	104.2
Status	Active
Adopted	October 21, 2009
Last Revised	**April 29, 2026**_____
Prior Revision	July 27, 2011

Authority

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 sincerely held religious and/or moral beliefs.[1][2]

The right to be exempt from instruction which conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs extends 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 older.

The right to be exempt from instruction which conflicts with moral beliefs extends to the parents/guardians of students enrolled in this district.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians of this policy at least annually, at the beginning of each school year, and within a reasonable time after any substantive changes regarding the contents of this policy.

Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy that include directives for staff to provide reasonable and realistic advance notice to parents/guardians when instruction is planned that may conflict with sincerely held religious and/or moral beliefs. Such notice provides parents/guardians the opportunity to opt their child out of the instruction.

Guidelines

The District shall excuse any student from specific instruction, subject to the following conditions:

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, and include the specific reason for the request(s).

2. The written request to be excused shall be sent by the parent/guardian or student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older to the Building Principal. One (1) copy of the request shall be retained in the student's permanent school records, one (1) copy kept by the Superintendent or designee, and one (1) copy submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.

3. 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.

   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.

4. The written request must contain a statement that the specific instruction described conflicts with the sincerely held religious and/or moral beliefs of the student or of the parents/guardians.

5. The parent/guardian and/or student may request suggested replacement educational activities. The only permissible educational activity for this purpose shall be in the substantially similar instruction that is consistent with the goals and learning objectives set for the course, and does not require the provision of any extra resources by the District.

6. The Superintendent or designee shall determine where the student shall report during the time the student is excused.

7. All students excused from specific instruction shall be required to achieve the academic standards established by the District as necessary for graduation.

Exemption from Dissection Activities

Students have the right to decline to participate in an education project involving dissection, vivisection, incubation, capture or other harm or destruction of an animal or any part of an animal.[3]

The District must notify students and parents/guardians of their right to decline participation in such activities at least three (3) weeks prior to the start of the education project. Students who do not participate in such activities will be assigned an alternative education project.[3]

Legal
1. 22 PA Code 4.4
2. 22 PA Code 11.7

104.2-AR.pdf (8 KB)104.2-AR-1 ReqForExempt.pdf (80 KB)104.2-AR-2 ExemptRsp.pdf (10 KB)

3. 24 P.S. 15-1523

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