

FORM - REQUEST FOR RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (<i>MAHMOUD V. TAYLOR</i>) 2025-2026

California Education Code Section 51204.5 (the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful (“FAIR”) Education Act) mandates the inclusion of LGBTQ+ history and the contributions of other underrepresented groups in California's K-12 history and social science curriculum. It ensures that educational materials accurately represent the diversity of American society and prohibits discriminatory bias in instruction.

In Mahmoud v. Taylor (2025), the U.S. Supreme Court held that parents/guardians of elementary students may opt out of their child’s instruction during the use of age-appropriate *storybooks* and *similar instructional materials* relating to LGBTQ+ individuals, families, and/or identities if it would *substantially interfere* with a sincerely held religious belief, religious custom, or religious practice.

Religious Exemption Form is to be completed only by parents/guardians for this purpose. Prior to implementing an opt-out, parents/guardians must communicate with their child’s teacher regarding the specific materials in question. Parents may withdraw their opt-out selection if they decide that the instructional materials do not *substantially interfere* with a sincerely held religious belief, religious custom, or religious practice.

OPT OUT REQUEST

I request that _____

Student (full name)	ID Number	School	Grade
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be excused from instruction during the 2025-2026 school year when *storybooks* and *similar instructional materials* directly address lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or gender non-conforming themes.

My family’s religious belief(s), religious custom(s), and/or religious practice(s) will be *substantially interfered* with by these materials in the following way: _____

These instructional material(s) *substantially interfere* with these specific religious belief(s), religious custom(s), and/or religious practice(s) of my family: _____

I understand that my child will be excused from instruction and will report to an alternative classroom, library, or space on campus during this instructional time.

Parent or Guardian Name

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date