Director Procedure Number: B125
Title: Nonparticipation in Selected Instruction and State Assessments
Section: Programs

Nonparticipation in Selected Instruction and State Assessments

State law requires that Career and Technical Centers adopt policies and procedures to assure that parents or guardians have the following:

1. Access to information about the curriculum, including academic standards to be achieved, instructional materials and assessment techniques.
2. A process for the review of instructional materials.
3. The right to have their children excused from specific instruction that conflicts with their religious beliefs, upon receipt by the school entity of a written request from the parent or guardians.
4. The right to review a State assessment in the school entity during convenient hours for parents and guardians, at least 2 weeks prior to their administration, to determine whether a State assessment conflicts with their religious belief. To protect the validity and integrity of the State assessments, each school entity shall have in place procedures to be followed when parents or guardians request to view any State assessment. Procedures must be consistent with guidance provided by the Department in its assessment administration instructions. If upon inspection of a State assessment parents or guardians find the assessment to be in conflict with their religious belief and wish their students to be excused from the assessment, the right of the parents or guardians will not be denied upon written request that states the objection to the applicable school district superintendent, charter school chief executive officer or AVTS director.
5. The right to have their children excluded from research studies or surveys conducted by entities other than a school entity unless prior written consent has been obtained.

Parents and guardians may review information about the curriculum if they believe it may be in conflict with their religious beliefs by making arrangements with the Director or designee. Attachment A shall be used for written requests from students or their parents/guardians that the students be excused from specific instruction conflicting with their religious beliefs or other reasons for valid cause shown as determined by the Director or designee.

Parents and guardians may review state assessments if they believe they may be in conflict with their religious beliefs by making arrangements with the Director or designee, once the exams arrive at the school. The Pennsylvania Department of Education Parent Confidentiality Agreement for each assessment must be signed. If, after reviewing the state assessment, the parents/guardians do not want their student to participate in the assessment due to a conflict with their religious beliefs, they must complete the attached form (Attachment B) prior to the beginning of the assessment to request their student be excused from the assessment.

Adopted: 5/13/15