LENAPE TECHNICAL SCHOOL

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED: April 21, 2005

REVISED: June 18, 2015
January 15, 2026

105.2. EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

Authority

The Joint Operating Committee 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 the school 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 the school.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Administrative Director 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.

The Administrative Director 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 school shall excuse any student from specific instruction, subject to the following conditions:

1. To assist the school 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, **including the reason(s) for the request.**

2. The written request to be excused shall be sent by the parent/guardian or student **who is eighteen (18) or older** to the building administrator.

   One (1) copy of the request shall be retained in the student's permanent school records, one (1) copy shall be kept by the school Assistant Director/Principal, and one (1) copy shall be submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.

	3. 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. 4. The parent/guardian and/or student may request suggested replacement educational activities. The only permissible educational activity for this purpose shall be **substantially similar** instruction that is consistent with the goals set for the course. 5. The building administrator shall determine where the student shall report during the time the student is excused. 6. All students excused from specific instruction shall be required to achieve the academic standards and competencies established by the school as necessary for graduation or completion of the course work.[3][4]
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.[5]** **The school 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.[5]** **PSBA Revised 11/25 © 2025 PSBA** Legal References 1. 22 PA Code 4.4 2. 22 PA Code 11.7 3. Pol. 102 4. Pol. 217 5. 24 P.S. 1523 Mahmoud v. Taylor, 606 U.S. __ , 145 S.Ct. 2332 (2025). Tatel v. Mt. Lebanon School District, 752 F.Supp.3d 512 (W.D. Pa. 2024). Troxel v. Granville, 530 U.S. 57 (2000). Copyright PSBA 2025