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| Book | Policy Manual |
| Section | 100 Programs |
| Title | Exemption From Instruction |
| Number | 105.2 |
| Status | Final Reading and Adoption |
| Adopted | October 4, 1995 |
| Last Revised | March 6, 2000 |
| Last Reviewed | May 21, 2018 |

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to comply with the requirement of the State Board of Education that school districts adopt policies that assure parents/guardians the right to have their children excused from specific instruction which conflicts with their religious beliefs. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

Authority

The Wilson School District Board of School Directors (Board) shall adopt policies to assure that parents/guardians have the right to have their children excused from specific instruction which conflicts with their religious beliefs. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

Guidelines

The rights granted by this policy are granted to parents/guardians of students enrolled in this school district where the students are under the age of eighteen (18) and to the students themselves when the student is eighteen (18) or over, unless the student is incapable of making the decision due to a disability.

As used in this policy, the phrase **specific instruction** means identifiable elements of instruction by the teacher. It does not include required reading or academic standards.

The district shall excuse any student from specific instruction as defined in this policy upon satisfaction of and 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 with respect to which the student is to be excused.
2. The written request to be excused shall be sent by the ~~qualifying~~ parent/guardian or student to the ~~classroom teacher~~ school principal in triplicate. One (1) copy shall be retained in the student's ~~permanent~~ school office records, a copy shall be kept by the school principal, and a copy shall be submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.

3. It shall be the responsibility of the district to ensure that the child exercises his/her right to be excused.
4. The written request must contain a statement that the specific instruction described in the written request conflicts with the religious beliefs of the student or of the parents/guardians.
5. The parent/guardian and/or student shall designate on the request to be excused replacement educational activities in which the student shall engage during the time the student is excused. The only permissible educational activity for this purpose shall be in the nature of replacement instruction that is consistent with the goals set for the course and that does not require the provision of any extra resources by the district.
6. The building principal 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 and are necessary for graduation.[3]
8. ~~Children~~ Students may be excused from the state assessments if, upon inspection of the testing materials, they find the assessment to be in conflict with their religious beliefs and provided that parents/guardians provide a written request addressed to the Superintendent for excusal based upon religious conflict.

This policy shall become void and unenforceable if the regulation of the State Board of Education, upon which it is based is repealed, modified or declared invalid in whole or in part.

Legal

1. [22 PA Code 4.4](#)
2. [22 PA Code 11.7](#)
3. Pol. 217

Last Modified by Mrs Regina Urso on May 14, 2018