

EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: EXEMPTION FROM
INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED: August 19, 2002

REVISED: December 21, 2015

105.2. EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION	
1. 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 the right to have their children excused from specified instruction which conflicts with their religious beliefs.
2. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.4, 11.7	The Board adopts this policy to ensure that parents have the right to have their children excused from specified instruction that conflicts with their religious beliefs.
3. Definitions	As used in this policy, the phrase specified instruction means identifiable elements of instruction by the teacher. It does not include required reading or academic standards.
4. Guidelines	<p>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.</p> <p>The school district shall excuse any student from specified instruction as defined in this policy upon satisfaction of and subject to the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To assist the school district in ensuring that the student is excused from the correct specified instruction, the request must be made in writing and must detail the <u>specified instruction</u> 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 school principal who will distribute copies as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. One copy shall be retained in the student's permanent school records. b. One copy shall be kept by the school principal. c. One copy shall be submitted to the teacher(s) from whose instruction the student is to be excused.

<p>Pol. 102, 217</p>	<p>3. It shall not be the responsibility of the school 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 specified 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 information.</p> <p>4. The written request must contain a statement that the specified instruction described in the written request conflicts with the religious beliefs of the student or of the parents/guardians.</p> <p>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 provision of any extra resources by the school district.</p> <p>6. The school principal shall determine where the student shall report during the time the student is excused.</p> <p>7. All students excused from specified instruction shall be required to achieve the academic standards established by the school district as are necessary for graduation.</p>
<p>SC 1523</p>	<p><u>Dissection</u></p> <p>The science department has a dissection policy that encourages students to participate in dissection activities; however, alternatives are available upon written request for students who do not want to dissect.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code 24 P.S. Sec. 1523</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations 22 PA Code Sec. 4.4, 11.7</p> <p>Board Policy 102, 217</p>