

Pennsbury School District

School Board Policy

Effective Date	Supercedes Index No.	Index No.
10/21/10	3019 of 3/21/96	105.3

Title: Exemption From Instruction

Purpose: The School Board adopts this policy to ensure that parents or guardians have the right to have their children excused from specific instruction that conflicts with the religious beliefs of the family.

The rights are granted by this policy to parents or guardians of students enrolled in this School District who are under the age of 18 and to the students themselves when the student is 18 or older.

Authority: Title 22 § 4.4, 11.7

Policy: Specific instruction is defined as specific facts or tenets that are taught as true. To exercise the right accorded by this policy, a parent or guardian (or eligible age student), must identify each fact or tenet that is contrary to his or her religious belief. Learning outcomes are not specific instruction from which a child may be excused.

The School District shall excuse any student from specific instruction, 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 from which the student is to be excused. If the request is ongoing, it must be submitted annually in writing.
2. The written request to be excused shall be sent by the parent or guardian or student to the school principal. One copy of the request shall be retained in the student's permanent school records, one

copy kept by the school principal, and one copy submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.

3. The School District will make a good faith effort to excuse a student from instruction as requested by a parent or guardian when the specific instruction objected to is presented. 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 instruction.
4. The written request must contain a statement that the specific instruction described conflicts with the religious beliefs of the student or of the parents or guardians.
5. The parent or guardian and/or student may, with adequate advance notice, request suggested replacement educational activities. 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 does not require the provision of any extra resources by the School 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 School District as necessary for graduation.

Responsible

Administrator: Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction