

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED: November 9, 1995

REVISED: June 9, 2005

Palmyra Area School District

105.2 EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION	
1. Purpose	<p>The purpose of this policy is to comply with the requirement of the State Board of Education that school districts provide parents the right to have their children excused from specific instruction which conflicts with their religious beliefs.</p>
2. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.4 (d)	<p>The Board adopts this policy to ensure that parents have the right to have their children excused from specific instruction that conflicts with their religious beliefs.</p>
3. Definition	<p>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.</p>
4. Guidelines	<p>The rights granted by this policy are granted to parents of students enrolled in this 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 district shall excuse any student from specific instruction, as defined in this policy, 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 specific instruction, the request must be made in writing and must detail the specific instruction from which the student is to be excused.2. The written request to be excused shall be sent by the qualifying parent or student to the building principal. One copy of the request shall be retained in the student's permanent school records, a copy shall be kept by the school principal, and a copy shall be submitted to the teacher from whose

<p>Pol. 102</p> <p>PA Code Title 22 Sec. 4.4 (d) Pol. 102</p>	<p>instruction the student is to be excused.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. It shall not be the responsibility of the district or any of its employees to ensure that the child exercises his/her right to be excused, and school employees are prohibited from initiating action to have any student leave class in accordance with a parental request. Instead, it is the responsibility of the student to request permission to leave class when the specific instruction objected to is or is about to be presented. When the student seeks to be excused, the teacher shall excuse the student if (a) the teacher has a copy of the written request or, if upon checking with the principal, the principal has a copy of the written request; and (b) the written request adequately describes the instruction that is taking place or about to take place.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.5. The parent and/or student shall designate on the request to be excused the 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 as necessary for graduation.
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