



# Peters Township School District

Policy: 6105

Title: Exemption from Instruction

Adopted: 12/7/09

6105. EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION	
1. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.4, 11.7	The Board adopts this policy to ensure that parents/guardians have the right to have their children excused from specific instruction that conflicts with their religious beliefs.
2. Definition	As used in this policy, the phrase <b>specific instruction</b> means identifiable elements of instruction by the teacher. It does not include academic or reading standards.
3. Guidelines	<p>The rights granted by this policy are granted to parents/guardians of students enrolled in this district when 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, subject to the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>2. The written request to be excused shall be sent by the parent/guardian or student to the building principal.</li></ol> <p>One (1) copy of the request shall be retained in the student's permanent school records, one (1) copy kept by the school principal, and one (1) copy submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. It shall be the responsibility of the district or any of its employees to ensure that the student in Grades K-6 exercises his/her right to be excused in accordance with a parental request. It shall be the responsibility of the student in Grades 7-12 to request permission to leave class when the specific instruction objected to is presented.</li></ol>

<p>Pol. 5121, 5127</p>	<p>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 instruction.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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/guardians.</li><li>5. The parent/guardian and/or student, if the student is over the age of eighteen (18), may 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 learning goals set for the course and does not require the provision of any extra resources by the district. The principal and teacher shall make the final determination of consistency with goals set for the course.</li><li>6. The building principal shall determine where the student shall report during the time the student is excused.</li><li>7. All students excused from specific instruction shall be required to achieve the learning outcomes established by the District and that are necessary for graduation.</li></ol> <p>References:</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.4, 11.7</p> <p>Board Policy – 5121, 5127</p>
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