

Sylvan Heights Science Charter School

Policy Number: 105.2

Policy Title: Exemption from Instruction

Approved: March 22, 2021

Revised:

Authority

The Board of Trustees (the Board) of the Sylvan Heights Science Charter School (the School) 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.

The provision for exemption from instruction on religious grounds does not include release of a student from a required course or academic standards. Requests for exemption on religious grounds shall be considered only for specific instruction, discrete lessons, or classroom activities.

Guidelines

The rights granted by this policy are granted to parents/guardians of students enrolled in this School.

The School shall excuse any student from a specific instruction that conflicts with the student's religious beliefs, subject to the following conditions:

1. To assist the School 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 the excused shall be submitted to the Principal/Chief Academic Officer (CAO) or designee by the parent/guardian or student.

Whenever possible, written requests for exemption from instruction should be made sufficiently in advance of the particular lesson or activity from which exemption is sought to allow ample opportunity for proper consideration of alternative instruction by the Principal/CAO or designee.

One (1) copy of the request shall be retained in the student's permanent school record, a copy shall be kept by the Principal/CAO or designee, and one (1) copy shall be submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.

3. It shall not be the responsibility of the School, or any of its employees, to ensure that the student exercises his/her right to be excused in accordance with a parent/guardian or student request. It shall be the responsibility of the student to request permission to leave class when the specific instruction objected is presented. When the student seeks to be excused, the teacher shall excuse the student if the teacher or Principal/CAO or designee 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 the parents/guardians.
5. The parent/guardian and/or student 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 objects set for the course and that does not require the provision of any extra resources by the School.
6. The Principal/CAO or designee shall determine where the student shall report during the time the student is to be excused.
7. All students excused from specific instruction shall be required to achieve the academic standards established by the School.
8. Exemption from specific instruction shall not favorably nor adversely affect the excused student's grade in that particular course. At the option of the School, whenever a student is excused from specific instruction, the School may, but shall not be obligated to, assign alternative lessons, materials or activities, and the student may be graded or assessed upon the alternative option.

References:

22 PA Code 4.4
22 PA Code 11.7

Pol. 102