

EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIRED INSTRUCTION – REGULATION

Policy Number: Superintendent File: IMBB-R

Students may not be penalized for receiving exemption from required instruction. Such students, may, however, be required to complete alternative assignments in the place of the required instruction.

Exemption from Human–Sexuality Portions of the Health–Education Curriculum

Schools that include in their planned health–education curriculum sections or units concerning human sexuality must, before beginning such instruction, provide parents with a detailed, substantive outline of the topics and materials to be presented in that portion of the curriculum, and inform parents that they may excuse their students from some or that entire portion of the curriculum. Although parents choosing exemption are not required to explain their reasons doing so, explanations may help teachers formulate appropriate alternative assignments for students.

Exemption from Physical–Education Curriculum

A parent who believes that his or her student is unable to participate in all or a some of a physical–education curriculum must provide the building principal with a written statement explaining why the student cannot participate. In some circumstances a signed statement from a doctor documenting the student’s condition and explaining why the doctor believes that the condition requires exemption may be required.

Other Exemptions

A student may be exempted from other portions of required instruction if the student’s parent reasonably objects to that portion of instruction. Parents seeking an exemption must submit to the building principal a written request specifically identifying the portion of the instruction for which the exemption is sought and the basis for the request. That the instruction may expose the student to ideas that the student or parent generally objects to will not alone justify an exemption. Upon receiving a written request from a parent, the principal shall confer with the instructor, the student, and the parent to evaluate whether the concern prompting the request may be accommodated without exempting the student from the instruction. If the principal determines that an accommodation is not possible, then the principal will evaluate whether exemption is appropriate. An exemption will be deemed appropriate if the legitimate educational aims of the instruction requires the student to engage in conduct to which the parent or guardian reasonably objects.

A parent who disagrees with a principal’s decision may request that the principal set forth his or her decision in writing. The principal’s written decision may then be appealed to the Superintendent or designee, whose decision may in turn be appealed to the Board of Education.

Adopted: November 2, 1999

Repealed by the Board and re–enacted by the Superintendent: April 20, 2004

Revised: January 17, 2006