

SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: EXEMPTION FROM
INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED: June 10, 2002

REVISED: October 13, 2014

<p><i>Replaces former policies 6164 and 6165</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purpose 2. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.4 (d) 11.7 3. Definition 4. Guidelines 	<p style="text-align: center;">105.2. EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION</p> <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> <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> <p>As used in this policy, the phrase specific instruction means identifiable elements of instruction by a teacher. It does not include required reading or academic standards, which are addressed in separate policies.</p> <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 students are eighteen (18) or over, unless the students are 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 on the Request For Instructional Exemption form 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. <p style="margin-left: 40px;">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 instruction the student is to be excused.</p> 3. It shall not be the responsibility of the district or any of its employees to ensure that the student exercises his/her right to be excused in accordance with a
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<p>Pol. 102</p>	<p>parental request. It shall be the responsibility of the student to request permission to leave class when the specific instruction objected to is 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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<p>5. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p><u>EXCUSAL FROM STATE ASSESSMENT</u></p> <p>The district will administer the Pennsylvania State Assessment tests as required by the State Board of Education.</p> <p>Prior to the administration of the State Assessment, the Superintendent or designee will direct that parents of a student scheduled to take the State Assessment be notified of their rights of preview and excusal for religious reasons. The Superintendent or designee will establish an Administrative Regulation (AR 105.2) that provides procedures for parents to request excusal for religious reasons.</p> <p>The Board directs the Superintendent and Administration to respond to parent requests for exemptions from curriculum requirements using the following guidelines in accordance with applicable State regulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain the expectation that all students complete the curriculum as established by the Southern Lehigh School Board in conjunction with State Board of Education curriculum goals and regulations.

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<p>PA Code Title 22 Sec. 4.4 (d), 11.7 Pol. 102</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="440 243 1562 472">2. Approve all reasonable requests, as determined by the building principal in concert with the Director of Curriculum Services. Written requests from parents that are so general and pervasive in nature as to prevent achieving the desired outcomes of the established curriculum requirements or are simply impossible to administer may be denied. Any denial may be appealed to the Superintendent, and ultimately to the School Board.<li data-bbox="440 472 1562 907">3. The administration will review all requests to ensure that the materials and/or practices to which there are objections do not violate the religious protections guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.
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