

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED: MAY 17, 1995

REVISED: JUNE 13, 2007

# FERNDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

<p>1. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.4, 11.7 Pol. 203.1</p> <p>2. Definition</p> <p>3. Guidelines</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">105.2. EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION</p> <p><b>The Board</b> adopts this policy to <b>ensure</b> that parents/<b>guardians</b> 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 term specific instruction <b>shall be defined as</b> identifiable elements of instruction by the teacher. It shall not include required reading or <b>academic standards</b>.</p> <p>The rights granted by this policy are granted to parents/<b>guardians</b> 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, <b>and the religious basis asserted therefore</b>.</li> <li>2. The written request to be excused shall be sent by the parent/<b>guardian</b> or student to the building principal.</li> </ol> <p>One (1) copy <b>of the request</b> 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 not be the responsibility of the district or any of its <b>employees</b> to ensure that the student exercises his/her right to be excused and employees are prohibited from initiating action to have any student leave class in accordance with a parental request. It shall be the responsibility of the student to request permission to leave class when the specific instruction objected to is presented.</li> </ol>
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<p>Pol. 102, 217</p>	<p>When the <b>student</b> seeks to be excused, the teacher shall excuse the <b>student</b> if the teacher or principal has a copy of the written request and the written request adequately describes the <b>specific</b> 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/<b>guardians</b>.</li> <li>5. The parent/<b>guardian</b> and/or student <b>may</b> request <b>suggested</b> replacement educational activities. 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 does not require the provision of any extra resources by the district.</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 <b>academic standards</b> established by the district as necessary for graduation.</li> </ol>
<p>Sec. 1523</p>	<p><b><u>Animal Dissections</u></b></p> <p>All students shall have the right to refuse to dissect, vivisect, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of their course of instruction. <b>The district</b> shall notify <b>students</b> and their parents/guardians of the right to decline to participate in an education project involving harmful or destructive use of animals, and to authorize parents/guardians to assert the right of their child(ren) to refuse to participate in those projects. Notice shall be given not less than three (3) weeks prior to the scheduled course exercise.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.4, 11.7</p> <p>Board Policy – 102, 203.1, 217</p>