

Policy Title: ***Religion Based Exclusion from School Program***

Code No. **602.12**

Parents who wish to have their child excluded from a school program because of religious beliefs must inform the superintendent. The board authorizes the administration to allow the exclusion if it is not disruptive to the educational process and it does not infringe on a compelling state or educational interest. Further, the exclusion must not interfere with other school district operations. Students who are allowed to be excluded from a program or activity which violates their religious beliefs are required to do an alternate supervised activity or study. The superintendent or designee shall determine alternate activity or study for the student.

In notifying the superintendent or designee, the parents shall abide by the following:

- the notice shall be in writing;
- the objection shall be based on religious beliefs;
- the objection shall state which activities or studies violate their religious beliefs;
- the objection will state why these activities or studies violate their religious beliefs;
- the objection shall state a proposed alternate activity or study.

The superintendent or designee shall have discretion to make this determination. The factors considered when a student requests to be excluded from a program or activity because of religious beliefs include, but are not limited to:

- availability of staff to supervise a student who wishes to be excluded;
- availability of alternative course of study or activity;
- the number of students who wish to be excluded;
- concern that allowing the exclusion places the school in the position of supporting a particular religion,
- whether the program or activity is required for promotion to the next grade level or for graduation.

Date of Adoption: May 8, 1989

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