

POLICY: 501.8

RELIGION-BASED EXCLUSION

Exclusion from student participation in a school program/activity based on religious belief(s) is permissible. The parents/guardians who wish to have a student excluded on religious beliefs shall notify the Superintendent or his/her designee. Administration shall allow the exclusion if it is not disruptive to the educational process, does not infringe on a compelling state or educational interest, and does not interfere with other District operations.

The notification shall:

- a) be in written form;
- b) provide assurances the reason(s) is/are based on religious beliefs;
- c) state which activity(ies) or study(ies) violate their religious beliefs;
- d) state why they violate their religious beliefs; and
- e) state a proposed alternative.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall have sole discretion to render a decision. The decision will be based on, but is not limited to:

- a) space to house the student while the student is excluded;
- b) the appropriateness of the proposed alternative(s);
- c) the number of students who wish to be excluded;
- d) if allowing the exclusion places the school in a position of supporting a particular religion; and
- e) whether the required program or activity is a program meant for promotion to the next grade level or for graduation.

LEGAL REFERENCE: U.S.Const'n amend. I Lemon v. Kurtzman, 403 U.S. 602.91
S.Ct. 2105 (1971)

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