



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

Board Policy Statement

6144.10 - Exemptions from Instruction and School Activities

Approved on May 2, 2016

The following policy outlines areas where students may be exempt from participation in school activities or instruction and the reasons for permissible exemption. Despite the following exemptions substance abuse education is required by state statutes for all students annually and students are not exempt.

I. Religious

If the religious belief and/or teachings of a student or his/her parents or guardian are contrary to the content of a school subject, or to any part of a school activity, the student may be exempt from participation. To receive such an exemption, the parent or guardian must present a written request for exemption to the Principal stating the conflict involved.

II. Medical

If a student is unable to participate in a physical education class or activities in other classes requiring physical exertion, They must present to the school nurse a statement from a physician stating the reason for his/her inability to participate. The school nurse will be responsible for notifying the appropriate teachers.

III. HIV/AIDS Instruction

Currently there is no cure for those infected with AIDS, but the Board of Education believes that education is the best way to prevent the spread of AIDS. By learning the facts about AIDS, students will be able to make decisions that will keep them healthy and perhaps save their lives.

A student will be exempted from instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) upon receipt of a written request for exemption from his/her parent or guardian.

"HIV/AIDS Instruction" is defined as ongoing and systematic instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) offered by the District pursuant to state law.

IV. Dissection of Animals

A student will be exempted from Dissection Instruction upon receipt of a written request for exemption from his/her parent or guardian. "Dissection Instruction" is defined as instruction in which a student must participate in, or observe the dissection of any animal.

Any student excused from participating in, or observing the dissection of any animal as part of classroom instruction shall be required to complete an alternate assignment to be determined by the teacher.

Exemptions from required instruction do not excuse a student from the total semester hours required for graduation.

V. Family Life and Education Instruction

Students, parents or guardians shall be informed of their right to exempt the student from the family life program. The student will be exempted upon a written request for exemption from his/her parent or guardian. "Family Life Instruction" is defined as instruction pertaining to family planning, human sexuality, parenting, nutrition and the emotional, physical psychological, hygienic, economic and social aspects of family life.

VI. Patriotic Activities

While the Consolidated School District of New Britain believes strongly in promoting pride in the patriotic traditions of our country and believes that one way to promote respect for our country can be through patriotic ceremonies. Therefore, each school shall provide the opportunity to students and school staff to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each day.

However, the Board respects the freedom of speech, or non-speech provided to all citizens. During Patriotic Activities, such as the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, the performance of Patriotic Songs or the National Anthem, or other such activities, any student may exercise their right to not participate and may, instead, stand or sit silently as they choose.

Teachers will ensure that all students behave in a mutually respectful manner and that no student is harassed, insulted, or demeaned for their decision to either participate or not participate in any such activity.

VII. Silent Meditation

The Board of Education, in recognition of the diverse beliefs and cultures of students and families in our community, direct schools to provide those students who wish to do so the opportunity to silently meditate at the start of each school day. All teachers and students shall be provided this opportunity in conjunction with the opening activities of the school day.

Any student who does not wish to participate in silent meditation shall not disrupt those who are participating and are expected to remain in the classroom for the designated time.