

Parents who wish to have their child excluded from a school program because of religious beliefs must inform the superintendent in writing. Parents may request to have their child excluded from a school program or activity because of religious beliefs if:

- The objection is based on legitimately held religious beliefs;
- The objection states which activities or studies violate their religious beliefs;
- The objection states why these activities or studies violate their religious beliefs; and
- The objection states a proposed alternate activity or study.

The board authorizes the administration to allow the exclusion if it is not disruptive to the education program and it does not infringe on a compelling state or educational interest. Further, the exclusion must not interfere with other school district operations.

The superintendent will have discretion to make this determination. The factors the superintendent will consider 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, the availability of space to house the student while the student is excluded, the availability of a superintendent-approved alternative course of study or activity while the student is excluded, the number of students who wish to be excluded, whether allowing the exclusion places the school in a position of supporting a particular religion, whether the program or activity is required for promotion to the next grade level or for graduation, and applicable state and federal law.

Students who are allowed to be excluded from a program or activity that violates their religious beliefs are required to do an alternate supervised activity or study.

Approved: 4/24/89

Reviewed and Amended: 7/12/93; 10/26/99; 09/25/06; 12/22/08; 2/24/14; 2/26/18; 1/22/24