

Book: Luzerne Intermediate Unit # 18
Section: 100 Programs
Title: Exemption from Instruction
Code: 105.2
Status: Active
First Adopted: November 20, 2002
Last Revised: February 25, 2026



Authority

The Board adopts this policy to ensure that parents/guardians have the right to have their children excused from specific instruction that conflicts with their sincerely held religious and/or moral beliefs.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

The right to be exempt from instruction which conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs extends to the parents/guardians of students enrolled in Intermediate Unit programs when the students are under the age of eighteen (18), and to the students themselves when the student is eighteen (18) or older.

The right to be exempt from instruction which conflicts with moral beliefs extends to the parents/guardians of students enrolled in Intermediate Unit programs.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Executive Director or designee shall notify parents/guardians of this policy at least annually, at the beginning of each school year, and within a reasonable time after any substantive changes regarding the contents of this policy.

Guidelines

The Intermediate Unit shall excuse any student from specific instruction, subject to the following conditions:

1. To assist the Intermediate Unit 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, including the reason(s) for the request.
2. The written request to be excused shall be sent by the parent/guardian or student who is eighteen (18) or older to the building administrator. One (1) copy of the request shall be retained in the student's permanent school record, one (1) copy kept by the school administrator or program supervisor, and one (1)

copy submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.

3. The written request must contain a statement that the specific instruction described conflicts with the sincerely held religious and/or moral beliefs of the student or of the parents/guardians.
4. The parent/guardian and/or student may request suggested replacement educational activities. The only permissible educational activity for this purpose shall be substantially similar instruction that is consistent with the learning objectives set for the course.
5. The building administrator or program supervisor shall determine where the student shall report during the time the student is excused.
6. All students excused from specific instruction shall be required to achieve the academic standards established by the Intermediate Unit as necessary for completion of the program.[3][4]

Exemption from Dissection Activities

Students have the right to decline to participate in an education project involving dissection, vivisection, incubation, capture or other harm of destruction of an animal or any part of an animal.[5]

The Intermediate Unit must notify students and parents/guardians of their right to decline participation in such activities at least three (3) weeks prior to the start of the education project. Students who do not participate in such activities will be assigned an alternative education project.[5]

Legal

[1. 22 PA Code 4.4](#)

[2. 22 PA Code 11.7](#)

3. Pol. 102

4. Pol. 217

[5. 24 P.S. 1523](#)

