

INSTRUCTION

EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome: The board of education shall offer planned, ongoing and systematic instruction on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) as required by law. The content and scheduling of the instruction shall be determined by the Superintendent of Schools or designee. A student may be exempt from this instruction upon the written request to the Superintendent of Schools by the student's parent or legal guardian. Students who are exempt from instruction shall be assigned to a supervised study period.

Family Life: The board of education may offer programs of instruction regarding family life that may include family planning, human sexuality, parenting, nutrition, and the emotional, physical, psychological, hygienic, economic and social aspects of family life. When family life programs are offered in the curriculum, a student shall be exempt from any portion of the instruction upon the written notification by the student's parent or guardian to the Superintendent of Schools. Students who are exempt from instruction shall be assigned to a supervised study period.

Physical Education: Any student who presents a certificate from a physician stating that, in the opinion of the physician, participation in physical education is medically contraindicated due to the physical condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical education requirement. The credit for physical education required for graduation may be fulfilled by an elective.

Dissection of Animals in the Classroom:

The dissection of animals has a long and well-established place in the teaching of life sciences. Well constructed dissection activities conducted by thoughtful instructors can illustrate important and enduring principles in biology. Learning theory further reinforces the benefit of learning from active experiences rather than passive learning alone. Region 14 schools believe that dissection of animals is a valuable method of giving students a motivating, active biological experience in the study of the anatomy and physiology of organisms. When dissection is used in the classroom it is imperative that it is part of an approved and supervised curriculum and that:

- a. The teacher thoroughly explains the learning objectives of the lesson and utilizes additional worksheet/audiovisual materials to maximize the educational benefit of the experience.
- b. All specimens be treated with respect.
- c. All students will be informed, prior to the dissection, that they have the option of discussing individual objections to dissection with the appropriate teacher/administrator. It is possible that such students may be given an alternative assignment. All decisions regarding this matter will be made on an individual basis by the teacher/administrator.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes:

- 10-16c through 10-16f, Family life education programs
- 10-19(b) Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and acquired immune deficiency syndrome
- 10-221a(c) High school graduation requirements