
MOORESTOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EXCUSAL FROM CLASS OR PROGRAM

The information below, should be completed and returned to your child's principal. Once submitted, in consultation with the principal, specific standards should be discussed in order to identify the units, standards, and/or lessons in which your child will be assigned an alternate task.

Student name: _____ Grade: _____

Consistent with Board of Education Policy 5250, Excusal from Class or Program, I am requesting that my child be excused from the following instruction:

- Health Education
- Family Life Education
- Sex Education
- Dissection of animals

I understand that this will mean that they may miss individual lessons and/or units of study.

As per Board Policy, I am asking that my student be excused due to the following reasons:

- Moral objection
- Conscientious objection
- Religious reasons

I understand that my child shall be assigned to an alternate program of independent study on a substitute topic within the health education, family life education, or sex education program. I understand that my student will not be penalized by loss of credit as a result of their excusal, but will be held accountable for successful completion of any alternate assignments. Additionally, I understand that if I have any further specific questions that I will direct them to the building principal.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

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District Policy

5250 - EXCUSAL FROM CLASS OR PROGRAM

Section: Students
Date Created: August 2008
Date Edited: August 2008

The Board of Education directs that a pupil be excused from any part of the instructions in health education, family life education, sex education, or instruction that includes dissection of animals that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the pupil or the adult pupil finds morally, conscientiously, or religiously offensive. A request for excusal must be presented in a signed statement and submitted to the Building Principal.

An excused pupil shall be assigned to an alternate program of independent study on a substitute topic within the health education, family life education, or sex education program. The parent's or legal guardian's right of excusal applies to any alternate program as well.

No excused pupil will be penalized by loss of credit as a result of his/her excusal, but a pupil will be held accountable for successful completion of any alternate program assigned.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.7

Adopted: 26 August 2008



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District Policy

2240 - CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Section: Program
Date Created: August 2008
Date Edited: August 2008

The Board of Education believes that the consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the schools. Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such issues can help pupils learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions.

For purposes of this policy a controversial issue is a topic likely to arouse strong reactions, based either on personal conviction or allegiance to a group.

The Board will permit the introduction and proper educational use of controversial issues provided that their use in the instructional program is related to the instructional goals of the course of study and level of maturity of the pupils. The discussion of controversial issues must not tend to indoctrinate pupils or persuade them to a particular point of view. Instead, teachers must encourage fair presentation and open-mindedness and the free exchange of ideas in a spirit of scholarly inquiry, drawing upon information and insights from the widest feasible range of resources.

When the consideration of controversial issues have not been specified in the course guide, the Board will permit the instructional use of only those issues that have been approved in advance by the Building Principal.

The discussion of controversial issues in the classroom will be conducted in an unprejudiced and dispassionate manner and cannot be allowed to disrupt the educational process. In the discussion of any issue, a teacher may express a personal opinion, provided the expression is characterized as personal opinion and does not attempt to persuade pupils to the teacher's point of view.

The Superintendent shall assist teaching staff members in developing a sensitivity to the occurrence of controversial issues in the context of the curriculum and developing techniques for the management of controversial issues that do not stifle a spirit of free inquiry.

Adopted: 26 August 2008

