



Section: Programs

Title: Assessment of Educational Program

Adopted: 8.19.04

Revised:

107.1 Assessment of Educational Program

The Board recognizes its responsibility to develop and implement an assessment plan that will determine the degree to which students are achieving academic standards and will provide information for improving the educational program.

The Board shall approve an assessment plan for use in district schools that is aligned with the adopted academic standards, State assessments and Federal standards. The assessment plan shall be described in the District's Strategic Plan.

The Board reserves the right to review mandated assessment measures in accordance with curriculum Committee protocol.

Residents shall have access to information about the curriculum, including academic standards to be achieved, expected student learning outcomes instructional materials, and assessment techniques. In the event of a parental question regarding access to such information, all such information requests shall be directed to the principal of the neighborhood school.

- 1. No more than one such request per semester/one-half year, may be made by any qualifying resident or student each school year.***
- 2. To assist the District in providing the correct records to meet the needs of the requesting party, the request must be in writing setting forth the specific material being sought for review.***
- 3. The written request shall be sent to the building principal or counselor.***
- 4. The principal will respond to the resident or student within ten (10) school days by designating the time and location for the review.***
- 5. The District may take such action as is necessary to protect its materials from loss, damage, or alteration to ensure the integrity of the files, including the provision of a designated employee to watch over the review of the materials.***

6. *Nothing in this policy shall be construed as a requirement that any resident or student be permitted to remove the material provided for review or photocopy the contents of such file. The taking of notes is permitted.*

Parents of currently enrolled students will also have the right to have their children excused from specific instruction, which conflicts with their religious beliefs.

1. *To assist the District 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 with respect to which the student is to be excused.*
2. *The written request to be excused shall be sent by the qualifying parent or student to the building principal in triplicate. One (1) copy shall be retained in the student's permanent school records, a copy shall be kept by the school principal, and a copy shall be submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.*
3. *It shall not be the responsibility of the District or any of its officials to ensure that the child exercises his/her right to be excused and school employees are prohibited from initiating action to have any student leave class in accordance with a parental request. Instead, it is the responsibility of the student to request permission to leave class when specific instruction objected to is being presented or is about to be presented. When the child seeks to be excused, the teacher is to excuse the child if: (a) the teacher has a copy of the written request or, if upon checking with the principal, the principal has a copy of the written request; and (b) the written request adequately describes the instruction that is taking place or about to take place.*
4. *The written request must contain a statement that the specific instruction described in the written request conflicts with the religious beliefs of the student or of the parents.*
5. *The parent and/or student shall designate on the request to be excused a replacement educational activity in which the student shall engage during the time the student is excused. The only permissible educational activity for this purpose shall be in the nature of replacement instruction that is consistent with the goals set for the course and that does not require the provision that is consistent with the goals set for the course and that does not require the provision of any extra resources by the District.*
6. *The building principal shall determine where the student shall report during the time the student is excused.*

7. *All students excused from specific instruction shall be required to achieve the learning outcomes established by the District and are necessary for graduation.*

Parents, district personnel and community representatives shall also have the right to participate in the strategic planning process pursuant to 22 Pa. Code Section 4.13.

Parents shall have the right to have their children excluded from research studies or surveys conducted by entities other than the District (including charter schools), AVTS, or intermediate unit unless prior written consent has been obtained.

Parents or guardians shall have the right to review the State assessments two (2) weeks prior to their administration during convenient hours for the parents and guardians. All necessary security requirements to maintain the validity of the assessment shall be taken in accordance with the State assessment administration instructions.

If upon inspection of the State assessments, parents or guardians find the assessments in conflict with their religious beliefs and wish their students to be excused from the assessment, the right of the parents or guardians will not be denied upon written request to the District Superintendent.

The Superintendent or designee shall recommend additional methods of assessment and evaluation of student learning consistent with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's list of approved instruments.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually disseminate to parents and the public information regarding student assessment results, as required by federal and state law and regulations.

The Superintendent shall continually recommend improvements in the curriculum and instructional practices based upon student assessment results.

Parents shall receive information regarding their child's state assessment scores and may obtain an explanation of assessment results from qualified school personnel.

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