

**STUDENT EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION
ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

Policy Statement

The Trumbull Board of Education recognizes that some curriculum may involve controversial issues, and that such content may offend the ideological or religious sensibilities of some members of the community. The curriculum shall address such controversial topics in an impartial and objective manner.

Under certain circumstances, the Trumbull School District will exempt students from instruction required by curriculum. Areas which may be considered for exemption may include instruction regarding acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), family life education programs, and/or dissection of animals. Students may also be exempt from any subject area conflicting with religious beliefs, unless there are clear issues of compelling public interest that would prevent it.

Substance abuse education is required by Connecticut General Statute, 10-19(a), for all students annually, and students are not exempt from instruction in this area.

Requests for exemption from instruction must be made in writing from the parent or guardian to the school principal. Any exemption from instruction does not excuse a student from the total hours and credits required for graduation. An alternate program will then be developed by staff to substitute for instruction time lost because of an exemption deemed appropriate by the school principal. The exemption should not interfere with the education provided to other students in the class, put an undue burden on the smooth operation of the school, or negatively impact the school or district budget.

Adopted: 3/16/93
Approved Revision: 6/10/93
Approved Revision: 8/02/05

Reference

- Connecticut General Statute, 10-19 (a)
- Trumbull Board of Education Policies:
School Ceremonies and Observances, Policy Code: 6115