

IHAM*

EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION AND HEALTH EDUCATION BASED ON RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS

Consistent with Department of Education requirements, health and physical education, including instruction about parts of the body, reproduction, and related topics, will be included in the instructional program.

Instruction must be appropriate to grade level, course of study, and development of students and must occur as part of a planned curriculum. The superintendent will require that faculty members who present this instruction receive continuing in-service training, which includes appropriate teaching strategies and techniques.

Parents/guardians will have the right to inspect and review health and physical instruction materials.

Opt-Out Procedure and Form

State law permits parents/guardians who do not want their child to participate in a particular unit of health or sex education instruction based on religious objections to have their child opt-out of such instruction.

Parents/guardians who wish to have their child opt-out of such instruction are required to complete the district opt-out form and state the particular unit of curriculum in which the student is not to participate. Opt-Out Forms are available from either the health education teacher or the principal. Exemption requests must be submitted annually and are valid only for the school year in which they are submitted.

Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment sufficient to meet state requirements for health education. The alternative assignment will be provided by the health or physical education teacher in consultation with the building administrator.

Legal References:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.40, *Health Education Program*
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.41, *Physical Education Program*
RSA 186:11, IX-b, *Duties of State Board of Education: Health and Sex Education*
IHAM-R, *Health and Sex Education Exemption: Opt-Out Form*

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