

Program Policy #139
Parent's Limited Right to Opt
Out of ESL/Bilingual Programs

Purpose:

Section 4.4(d)(3) of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education regulations requires school districts to adopt policies that permit parents to have their children excused from specific instruction only in the limited circumstances described below:

- School districts (including charter schools), AVTS's and intermediate units shall adopt policies to assure that parents or guardians have the following guaranteed right.

Guideline:

- Consequently, a parent may not seek to have his or her child excused from a district's ESL/Bilingual program unless the instruction conflicts with the family's religious belief.
- The SusQ-Cyber Charter School shall inform parents of this policy at enrollment and whenever a child is thought to be a student who is in need of the ESL/Bilingual program.
- This policy will require parents who are seeking excusal from an ESL/Bilingual program to submit to the CEO, in writing, a request for excusal.
- No requests will be honored except those, which state that the excusal request is because the instruction conflicts with the family's religious beliefs.

Delegation of Responsibility:

The ESL coordinator has the responsibility to disseminate this policy and to notify the parents of any students thought to be eligible for ESL/Bilingual programs of this policy.

The CEO is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS CONTROL. THIS POLICY IS NOT INTENDED TO CONFLICT WITH CHARTER REQUIREMENT.