

CURRICULAR EXEMPTIONS

Mandatory Curricular Exemptions:

Upon the written request of a parent or guardian received by the school district prior to planned instruction in the areas set forth below, The Lisbon Board of Education (the “Board”) shall permit curricular exemptions for instruction in the following areas:

1. Dissection;
2. Family life education;
3. HIV/AIDS;
4. Sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program

Definitions:

“Dissection Instruction” is defined as instruction in which a student must participate in, or observe, the dissection of any animal.

“Family Life Education Instruction” is defined as instruction pertaining to family planning, human sexuality, parenting, nutrition and the emotional, physical, psychological, hygienic, economic and social aspects of family life.

“HIV/AIDS Instruction” is defined as ongoing and systematic instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) offered by the district pursuant to state law.

“Sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program” is defined as the state-wide program identified or developed by the Department of Children and Families, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. (or a similar entity) that includes age-appropriate educational materials designed for children in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, regarding child sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention that may include, but not be limited to, the skills to recognize child sexual abuse and assault, boundary violations and unwanted forms of touching and contact, and ways offenders groom or desensitize victims, and strategies to promote disclosure, reduce self-blame, and mobilize bystanders.

Written Request for Mandatory Exemption:

Parents who wish to exercise such exemptions must notify the school district in writing in advance of the instruction to be provided. At the beginning of the school year parents will receive notification of such instruction. Parents will be provided with a Curricular Exemption Form that must be completed and returned to the Teacher or Principal. If a child does not have a valid Curricular Exemption Form on file, the child will participate in the instruction.

Permissive Curricular Exemptions:

Except for the mandatory curricular exemptions noted above, or otherwise required by law, the Board does not require teachers to exempt students from any other aspect of the curriculum.

Alternative Assignments:

1. Any student excused from participating in, or observing, the dissection of any animal as part of classroom instruction shall be required to complete an alternate assignment to be determined by the teacher and shared with the parent.
2. Any student excused from participating in the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program shall be provided, during the period of time in which the student would otherwise be participating in such program, an opportunity for other study or academic work as determined by the teacher and shared with the parent.
3. Any student excused from any other aspect of the curriculum may be required by the teacher to complete an alternative assignment as determined by the teacher and shared with the parent.

Legal References:

- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16c.
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16e.
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-18c.
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-18d.
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-19(b).
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17a-101q.

ADOPTED: 10/16/2023 – Lisbon Board of Education

AMENDED: 02/26/2024 – Lisbon Board of Education

LISBON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Curricular Exemption Form

I request that my child be exempted from instruction in the following areas:

Check all that apply:

- 1. Dissection _____
- 2. Family life education _____
- 3. HIV/AIDS _____
- 4. Sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program _____

I recognize that teachers may require my child to complete alternative assignments in lieu of the curricular instruction planned in the area of exemption and that such alternative assignments will be shared with the parent.

This form must be completed annually and returned to the school Principal by

Date

Name of Student (Please Print)

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date

Or

Student's Signature (if 18 years of age)

Date

*****THIS IS AN EXAMPLE FORM THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PARENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR OF THE GRADE LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION*****