

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **INSTRUCTION**

#### **6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs**

**Please also refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).**

As provided in Board policy 6:260, the District's curriculum is grounded in the District's educational mission and incorporates instruction on all subjects required by State law and regulation. Generally, students are expected to engage in all aspects of the District's instructional program.

In limited circumstances, parents/guardians may seek to have their student exempt from a particular instructional material or program. Such requests must be based either upon the statutory provisions which permit parental "opt-out" in the Illinois School Code, as set forth below or a student's right to the free exercise of religion as provided by the [First Amendment of the United States Constitution](#).

Parents/guardians seeking such exemptions must submit their request on the District's Curriculum Objection Form or directly to the building-level principal in a written format that would include the curriculum objection form. The reason must state, with specificity, the basis for seeking such an exemption. The Superintendent or designee will review such requests for exemption in accordance with its Curriculum Objection process and procedures. It will grant or deny the request considering the District's educational mission, applicable law, and graduation requirements set forth by the District and the Ill. State Board of Education.

The Illinois School Code establishes the following "opt-out" provisions for parents/guardians in relation to curricular content:

- Dissection of animals, [105 ILCS 112/1](#) *et seq*; [105 ILCS 5/27-14](#)
- Comprehensive Personal Health and Safety and Sexual Health Education, [105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a](#) (d)
- Instruction related to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), [105 ILCS 110/3](#)
- Instruction on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), [105 ILCS 110/3](#)
- Family Life Instruction, [105 ILCS 110/3](#)
- Lockdown drills, [105 ILCS 128/20](#)
- Instruction on recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse ([105 ILCS 5/27-13.2](#)) (K-8)

Exemptions that are not based on one of the statutory provisions above or an undue burden on student's rights to exercise their religious beliefs will not be granted.

Parents/guardians and members of the public have the right to inspect any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum pursuant to Board policy 7:15, *Student and Family Privacy Rights*.

Parents/guardians who have concerns about instructional materials or programming that are not related to the exemptions outlined above should discuss such concerns with their student's teacher and/or building principal or district administrator.

## LEGAL REF.:

[20 USC §1232h](#); [105 ILCS 5/28-19.1](#); [105 ILCS 112/1](#) *et seq*; [105 ILCS 5/27-14](#); [105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a](#) (d); [105 ILCS 110/3](#); [105 ILCS 5/27-23.5](#); [105 ILCS 128/20](#); [105 ILCS 5/27-13.2](#) (K-8).

[Mahmoud v. Taylor, 145 S.Ct. 2332 \(2025\)](#). [PRESSPlus1](#)

[CROSS REF.: 2:260 \(Uniform Grievance Procedure\), 7:15 \(Student and Family Privacy Rights\), 8:110 \(Public Suggestions and Concerns\)](#)

Adopted: March 15, 2023

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## PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to [Mahmoud v. Taylor, 145 S.Ct. 2332 \(2025\)](#), holding that classroom instruction will likely burden parents' free exercise rights if it requires their children to submit to instruction "that poses 'a very real threat of undermining' the religious beliefs and practices that the parents wish to instill." Unless otherwise required by law, it is unclear from Mahmoud whether a district would ever need to give advance notice to all parents/guardians of the use of certain curriculum or instructional materials that could trigger religious objections. Doing so could present discrimination concerns. Given the many unsettled legal issues in this area and the fact-dependent nature of the analysis involved, boards should consult with the board attorney regarding any curriculum objections. **Issue 120, October 2025**