SUN AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

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SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED: February 21, 2002

REVISED:

	105.2. EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION
1. Purpose	The purpose of this policy is to comply with the requirement of the State Board of Education that vocational technical schools provide parents the right to have their children excused from specific instruction that conflicts with their religious beliefs.
2. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.4, 11.7	The Joint Operating Committee adopts this policy to ensure that parents have the right to have their children excused from specific instruction that conflicts with their religious beliefs.
3. Definition	As used in this policy, the phrase specific instruction means identifiable elements of instruction by the teacher. It does not include required reading or academic standards.
4. Guidelines	The rights granted by this policy are granted to parents of students enrolled in this center when the students are under the age of eighteen (18) and to the students themselves when the student is eighteen (18) or over, unless the student is incapable of making the decision due to a disability.
	The center shall excuse any student from specific instruction, as defined in this policy, subject to the following conditions:
	1. To assist the center in ensuring that the student is excused from the correct specific instruction, the request must be made in writing and must detail the specific instruction from which the student is to be excused.
	2. The written request to be excused shall be sent by the qualifying parent or student to the Administrative Director or designee.
	One (1) copy of the request shall be retained in the student's permanent school records, a copy shall be kept by the school principal, and a copy shall be submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.

	3. It shall not be the responsibility of the center or any of its employees to ensure that the child exercises his/her right to be excused, and school employees are prohibited from initiating action to have any student leave class in accordance with a parental request. Instead, it is the responsibility of the student to request permission to leave class when the specific instruction objected to is or is about to be presented. When the student seeks to be excused, the teacher shall excuse the student if (a) the teacher has a copy of the written request or, if upon checking with the principal, the principal has a copy of the written request; and (b) the written request adequately describes the instruction that is taking place or about to take place.
	4. The written request must contain a statement that the specific instruction described conflicts with the religious beliefs of the student or of the parents.
	5. The parent and/or student may request suggested replacement educational activities. The only permissible educational activity for this purpose shall be in the nature of replacement instruction that is consistent with the goals set for the course and that does not require the provision of any extra resources by the district.
	6. The school principal shall determine where the student shall report during the time the student is excused.
Pol. 102	7. All students excused from specific instruction shall be required to achieve the academic standards and competencies established by the center as necessary for graduation.
PA Code Title 22 Sec. 4.4, 11.7	
Joint Operating Committee Policy 102	