

EXEMPTIONS FROM PARTICIPATION

Students shall be exempted from participation in supplemental or entertainment portions of the instructional program upon the written request of their parent or guardian if such request is based upon fundamental claims of religious freedom and the right to direct the upbringing of children. However, students should not be excused from the basic programs of instruction or portions thereof even though in conflict with religious beliefs or parents' concerns relative to the upbringing of their child.

The Bangor School Department is not obligated to provide an alternative educational program during such periods of exemption from participation. Therefore students may be released from school in the care of their parents or may be assigned to an appropriate area within school for independent study.

Examples of exemptions to be granted: viewing of television or films when for reward or entertainment; participation in coeducational recreational activities; participation in field trips, co-curricular, or extracurricular activities; presence at classroom parties or holiday celebrations.

Examples of participation to be required: classes where television or films are used for educational purposes; health education courses; musical courses.

Examples of discretionary participation: a specific topic within a health education course, which is not essential to the course as a whole; a particular piece of literature or topic. In these instances three options, in order of preference, are available: (1) an alternative assignment which would enable the student to maintain class participation, (2) exemption as specified above, or (3) required participation if considered essential to the education of the individual student.

All requests for exemption from participation under these guidelines shall be submitted to the Principal who shall either approve or disapprove, in whole or in part, and shall communicate such decision to the teachers and parents of the student. Appeals should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools.

ISSUED: 3 April 1985

