

RELIGION-BASED EXCLUSION FROM A SCHOOL PROGRAM

Parents who wish to have their student excluded from a school program because of religious beliefs must inform the principal in writing. The board authorizes the administration to allow the exclusion if it is not disruptive to the educational process and it does not infringe on a compelling state or educational interest. Further, the exclusion must not interfere with other school district operations. The principal shall have sole discretion to make this determination.

Students who are allowed to be excluded from a program or activity which violated their religious beliefs may be required to do an alternate supervised activity, or may be simply allowed to go home for the day or a portion of the day.

Legal Reference: U.S. Const. Amend. I.
Lemon v. Kurtzman, 403 U.S. 602, 91 S.Ct. 2105 (1971).
Graham v. Central Community School District of Decatur County. 608 F. Supp. 531
(Iowa 1985).
Iowa Code §§256.11 (7), 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference: 603 Instructional Curriculum
606.4 School Ceremonies and Observances

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