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 New Milford Board of Education (the "Board") shall permit curricular exemptions for instruction in the following areas:

1. Dissection;
2. Family life education;
3. HIV/AIDS; or
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, (A) the skills to recognize (i) child sexual abuse and assault, (ii) boundary violations and unwanted forms of touching and contact, and (iii) ways offenders groom or desensitize victims, and (B) strategies to (i) promote disclosure, (ii) reduce self-blame, and (iii) mobilize bystanders.

Written Request for Mandatory Exemption:

Parents who wish to exercise such exemptions must notify the building principal in writing in advance of the instruction to be provided.

Other Curricular Exemptions:

The Board does not require teachers to exempt students from any aspect of the curriculum except as the law may require. Parents who wish to request a curricular

exemption other than those noted above must notify the building principal in writing in advance of the instruction to be provided. The school district administration will consider whether to permit a requested exemption in accordance with applicable law.

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.

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.

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.

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

Mahmoud v. Taylor, 145 S. Ct. 2332 (2025)

Approved: October 18, 2022
Revised: October 20, 2026

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Milford, Connecticut

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Curricular Exemption Request 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.

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