

TITLE: MCS Governance Board Policy IMBB: Exemptions from Health Education Curriculum Requirements

LEGAL REFERENCE:

NMPED 6.30.2.11	Public Education Regulation
NMPED 6.30.2.19	Public Education Regulation (Health Standards)
NMPED 6.30.2.20	Public Education Regulation (Physical Education Standards)
Section 504	Americans with Disabilities Act

PURPOSE:

The McCurdy Charter School (MCS) Governance Board is committed to providing an equal education to all the students enrolled in the school in full compliance with state statutes. Therefore, any variance from the Health Education Curriculum Requirements shall be done using the following guidelines.

POSITION:

Health Education Curriculum Requirements

McCurdy Charter School Waiver Request

Students should not be exempted from the entire class but rather from specific topics or lessons. This procedure should be looked upon as a partnership with parents and the school designed to best meet the needs of each student and family. The following steps should be taken.

1. The parent(s) should contact the teacher(s) and request a meeting.
2. The teacher(s) should communicate the curricular content to parent(s).
3. The parent(s) and teacher(s) (and administrator if deemed necessary), should review the entire curriculum and come to an agreement to identify specifically what area(s) or topic(s) to exempt the student.
4. The teacher should provide the parents with the State Standards that are to be met by this topic and agree upon an alternative assignment(s) that they will meet these standards.
5. A written agreement should be drawn up that includes the following:
 - Specific date student will be out of class.
 - Where and to whom student should report on these days.
 - The assignment that has been agreed upon by both teacher and parent(s).
 - The standards that are being met.
 - How the student will be evaluated for this assignment.
 - Principal's approval.

The teacher should make available any resources (lesson plans, books and/or videos which are ordinarily used to teach class or are available as alternative materials). However, the parent may use alternative materials that meet the state standards.

Physical Education Curriculum Requirements

Medical Waivers

A student may be excused on a year-to-year basis from physical education classes by the Student Assistant Team (SAT) or 504 Plan. He/she must have on file a written statement from a licensed medical doctor who indicates the physical education activities that would be detrimental to the health of said student. The doctor's statement must be renewed annually if this condition persists.

The school based waiver does not exempt the student from his/her obligation to meet graduation requirements as outlined by the Public Education Department standards. Before granting a waiver, schools must consider whether or not the student's needs can be met if the school modifies the student's physical education program. If reasonable modification can be made, the school has an obligation to provide the modified program for the student. An example of reasonable modifications include

1. The student may participate with the class on all activities that would not be detrimental to his/her health and be assigned an alternative activity when participation would be detrimental to the student's health. The alternative activity should be non-punitive and should contribute to the student's fitness plan or achievement of physical education standards.
2. The student may withdraw from the class with no penalty and re-enroll at a later date if the condition will persist for many weeks but is expected to improve substantially at a future date.
3. The school may designate an alternative course to fulfill the physical education requirement. At high school level, this designation must be approved by the Director or her/his designee who is responsible for curriculum and/or instruction.
4. A high school student may complete a correspondence course aligned to state physical education standards approved by the school to fulfil the graduation requirement for physical education.
5. The school may develop an adaptive physical education course to meet the needs of physically impaired regular education students.

Religious Waiver

A student may be excused from health curriculum or physical education classes on a year-to-year basis for religious reasons on the approval of the Principal. This school-based waiver does not exempt the student from his/her obligation to meet graduation requirements as outlined by the Public Education Department's Standards. Before granting a waiver, schools must consider whether or not the student's needs can be met if the school modifies the student's health curriculum or physical education program. If

reasonable modifications can be made, the school has an obligation to provide the modified program for the student.

Credit Waiver Approval

A student who is unable to achieve the required credit(s) for the health education curriculum or physical education must receive a waiver from the Director. The decision is based on medical or religious reasons.

Waiver Under Section 504

Students for whom a waiver of the physical education requirement is requested on medical or physical disability grounds must receive an evaluation that meets the requirements of Section 504. Following the evaluation, the school Student Assistance Team (SAT) will prepare a modified program that accommodates the student's needs.

Processing Waivers

For students classified as seniors, the request for a credit waiver should be made at the beginning of the student's senior year after the school has verified that the student is unable to participate in the health education curriculum or a physical education class prior to graduation so will not have the necessary health education or physical education credits to graduate. Requests may be approved by the Director.

Extracurricular Activities

A student who has received a physical education waiver is prohibited from participation in any extra- curricular activity requiring physical exertion similar to that described in the waiver.

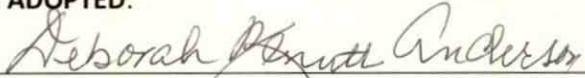
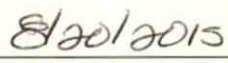
The MCS Director shall promulgate procedures to implement this policy.

REVIEW:

This policy shall be reviewed in accordance with the MCS Governance Board Policy Review Process.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: MCS Director and Policy & Bylaws Committee Chairperson

DATE ADOPTED:

Signature Date Signed
MCS Governance Board Chairperson

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

REVISIONS:

Date	Modification and why

MCS KEY WORDS OR RELATIONSHIP: