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Agora Cyber Charter School

Board of Trustees Policy

PARENTAL RIGHTS RELATIVE TO EXCUSAL FROM INSTRUCTION ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS

No religious belief or non-belief should be promoted by the Agora Cyber Charter School ("Charter School") or its employees, and none should be disparaged. The Charter School should encourage all students and staff members to be tolerant and respectful of each other's religious views. The Charter School should foster understanding and mutual respect among students and parents with differing religious beliefs or views.

To this point, the Charter School recognizes the statutory right of parents to have their children excused from specific instruction which conflicts with their religious beliefs. Therefore, the Board of Trustees ("Board") directs the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") to respond to parent requests for exemptions from curriculum requirements using the following guidelines in accordance with applicable State regulations:

1. Maintain the expectation that all students complete the curriculum as established by the Charter School in conjunction with State Board of Education curriculum rules and regulations.
2. Students should be excused from participating in practices which are contrary to their religious beliefs or cultural beliefs unless there are clear issues of law that would prevent such excuse.
3. Evaluate all requests to insure that the materials and/or practices to which there are objections do not violate the protections of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the

United States of America.

Parents requesting exemptions from specific instruction for their children which conflict with their religious beliefs shall complete a “Request for Exemption from Specific Instruction” form and submit said form to the Principal.

It shall be the policy of the Board that:

1. Students may be excused from portions of courses when the subject matter is incompatible with the religious beliefs of such students and/or their parents.
2. Only those students may be excused whose parents or guardians have submitted a signed “request for exemption” to the CEO.
3. The CEO shall review the request for exemption, notifying parents of his/her recommendations within ten (10) days.
4. Parents in disagreement with the CEO’s decision may appeal to the Board of Trustees, who shall review and respond to the parental written request, within ten (10) days.

Any complaints with regard to a Board policy or any aspect of the Charter School’s curriculum shall be brought in accordance with the Charter School’s Complaint Policy.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE CHARTER SCHOOL’S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.