

## **607.00.2 REQUEST TO OPT-OUT OF INSTRUCTION OR MATERIALS**

### **Requests to Opt-out of Instruction or Materials**

Parents and guardians, who wish to opt-out their student from part of SPPS curriculum, including instruction and materials, must follow the procedure detailed below:

1. Participate in a meeting with the building principal or designee who will hear the concerns. The Principal or designee will explain the opt-out request process and provide an overview of the responsibilities of parents/guardians and students in implementing alternative instruction.
2. Parents/guardians must submit a written plan for alternative instruction for the student. The plan must include, as applicable, details for:
  - Replacement instructional materials;
  - How the plan aligns to state and district standards;
  - How the parent/guardian will cover costs to the District to implement the plan; and
  - How the alternative instruction will be delivered to the student.
3. A school committee, that may include building administrators, classroom teachers, school support staff, and librarians, will evaluate the plan. The evaluation will consider whether the alternative instruction plan is aligned to District and state standards, district policy, and assessments, and the availability of school resources, such as classroom space, to administer the plan. The evaluation will also ensure that the implementation of the plan for alternative instruction will not incur a cost to the District.
4. The school committee will provide a response to the written plan within 10 school days. The response will be one of the following:
  - a. Acceptance of the plan for alternate instruction;
  - b. Acceptance of the plan for alternate instruction with modifications, including an explanation for the modifications; or
  - c. Notification that the plan for alternate instruction is not acceptable with an explanation.

The response will specify how the learning will be assessed. The parent/guardian will reply in writing with an agreement or refusal to provide for the resources needed to implement the plan.

If the parent/guardian accepts the response, the plan must be begin within 10 schools days from the date of parental acceptance.

5. If the plan is not accepted, the parent/guardian may appeal to the District Curriculum Advisory Council. The Council will consider the case at its earliest opportunity and submit a recommendation to the Superintendent, which will then be communicated to the school and parent/guardian. Final decisions regarding the appeal will be made by the Superintendent.

When a student opts-out of a portion of a course, the student will use that instructional time as a study hall. While alternatives will be considered, the school is not obligated to provide space outside of the regular classroom for the study hall. The student may not leave the school campus during this time.

SPPS will not pay for the costs of alternate instruction or the cost of administering the plan.

If the opted-out instruction or standards are required for completion of the course, and are not met by the alternate instruction plan SPPS reserves the right to deny credit in the course.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

Complaints, Textbook Selection and Adoption;  
Instruction/Intercultural, Non-Racist, Non-Sex-Biased Education;  
Instruction/Teaching about Religion

**LEGAL REFERENCES:**

Minnesota state statute: 120B.20 Parental Curriculum Review