

# Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School

## Board of Trustees Policy

### RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION POLICY

The Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School (“Charter School”) recognizes that no religious belief or non-belief should be promoted by the Charter School or its employees, and none should be disparaged. Instead, the Charter School should encourage all students and staff members to appreciate and be tolerant of each other's religious views and customs. The Charter School should foster understanding and mutual respect among diverse students and parents. Furthermore, the Board adopts this policy to ensure that parents/guardians have the right to have their children excused from specific instruction that conflicts with their own religious beliefs.

The rights granted by this policy are granted to parents/guardians of students enrolled in Charter School programs when the students are under the age of eighteen (18) and to the students themselves when the student is eighteen (18) or over, unless the student is incapable of making the decision due to a disability. The Charter School shall excuse any student from specific instruction, subject to the following conditions:

1. To assist the Charter School in ensuring that the student is excused from the correct specific instruction, the request must be made in writing and must detail the specific instruction from which the student is to be excused.
2. The written request to be excused shall be sent by the parent/guardian or student to the Building Principal or other Administrator. One (1) copy of the request shall be retained in the student’s permanent school record, one (1) copy kept by the Charter School Principal or Administrator, and one (1) copy submitted to the teacher from whose instruction the student is to be excused.
3. It shall not be the responsibility of the Charter School or its employees to ensure that the student exercises his/her right to be excused in accordance with a parental request. It shall be the responsibility of the student to request permission to leave class when the specific instruction objected to is presented.

When the student seeks to be excused, the teacher shall excuse the student if the teacher or administrator has a copy of the written request and the written request adequately describes the specific instruction

4. The written request must contain a statement that the specific instruction described conflicts with the religious beliefs of the student or of the parents/guardians.
5. The parent/guardian and/or student may request suggested replacement educational activities. The only permissible educational activity for this purpose shall be in the nature of replacement instruction that is consistent with the goals set for the course and that does not require the provision of any extra resources by the Charter School.
6. The Building Principal or other Administrator shall determine where the student shall report during the time the student is excused. All students excused from specific instruction shall be required to achieve the academic standards established by the Charter School as necessary for completion of the program.

**TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS CONTROL. THIS POLICY IS NOT INTENDED TO CONFLICT WITH CHARTER REQUIREMENTS.**

*References: State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code §§ 4.4, 11.7.*