



Requests to Opt Out of Curriculum

It is the responsibility of each charter school to develop curricula based on the NYS Learning Standards, and to select textbooks and instructional materials that support attainment of these learning standards by all students. When it comes to the academic curriculum a school chooses to teach its children, schools have broad latitude to determine appropriate instruction. EVCS makes decisions and takes particular actions to impart a broad spectrum of views to its students.

EVCS does not entertain parent requests to opt out of curriculum. Courts have recognized that if all parents had a fundamental constitutional right to dictate individually what schools teach their children, the schools would be forced to cater the curriculum for each student whose parents had a genuine moral disagreement with the school's choice of subject matter. The Constitution does not impose such a burden on educational systems. In fact, federal case law makes it clear that parents have no constitutional right to excuse their children from any part of public school curricula.

EVCS was founded on the principles of diversity, with the express intention to form an inclusive community where all different types of students feel welcome and valued. To that end, EVCS strives to educate students about the diversity of people and ideas that exist in our society and to give students access to information that will broaden their perspective on the world around them. When children learn about other cultures, it helps them understand the world. They begin to understand how other people live, their traditions and values, religions and languages.

Time spent understanding and appreciating differences benefits everyone. It is equally important to stress the many things we have in common. Research shows that when students' cultures are understood and appreciated by teachers, they do better in school. They feel more accepted and a part of the school community.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the content presented in school, please feel free to contact the Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

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CHARTER SCHOOLS

DAYS PARK

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ELMWOOD VILLAGE
CHARTER SCHOOLS

HERTEL

665 HERTEL AVENUE
BUFFALO, NY 14207
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The authority of a board of education to prescribe the course of study in its schools is broad (Education Law "1709[3], "1804[1]; Appeal of Murphy, 39 Ed Dept Rep, Decision No. 14,311; Appeal of Graham, 39 Ed Dept Rep, Decision No. 14,292). The parents of a student cannot compel a board of education to use a particular book or to discontinue the use of a particular book (Appeal of Carney, 39 Ed Dept Rep 255, Decision No. 14,229; Appeal of Harvey, 37 id. 194, Decision No. 13,840; Appeal of Smith, 34 id. 346, Decision No. 13,335).