



Book	Policy Manual
Section	5000 Students
Title	RELEASED TIME FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION DURING THE SCHOOL DAY
Code	po5223
Status	Active
Adopted	January 13, 2000
Last Revised	October 16, 2025

5223 - RELEASED TIME FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

The Board of Education desires to cooperate with those parents who wish to provide for religious instruction for their children, but also recognizes its responsibility to enforce the attendance requirements of the State.

Students shall be provided "released time" during the school day to attend a course in religious instruction conducted by a private sponsoring entity that is provided off of District property. Students will be excused and not considered absent from school during released time, provided that the following requirements are met:

- A. The student's parent or guardian gives consent in writing;
- B. The sponsoring entity maintains attendance records and makes them available to the District;
- C. The sponsoring entity provides and assumes liability for the student; and
- D. The student assumes responsibility for any missed schoolwork.

Transportation of students to and from released time instruction is the sole responsibility of the sponsoring entity, the parent, guardian, and/or student. The Board, its members, and employees are immune from liability for any injuries arising from transportation to and from released time instruction. Further, no Board funds will be expended for, and no District personnel shall be involved in, the provision of religious instruction.

The District shall collaborate with a sponsoring entity to identify a time for religious instruction to be offered during the school day prior to establishing release time(s) for religious instruction.

At times identified by the District during the school day, released time for religious instruction will be permitted as follows: For elementary and middle school students, one (1) period per week.

Students shall not be excused from a core curriculum subject course to attend released time instruction. The Board deems all graded courses to be core curriculum, including, but not limited to, courses that have State-approved learning standards.

Staff members shall not promote or discourage participation in release time programs for any religious instructional program.

Nothing herein shall constitute an endorsement of religion or infringe upon an individual's First Amendment rights.

Revised 5/12/16

Revised 5/8/25

© Neola 2025

Legal

R.C. 3313.6022

Attorney General's Opinion 88-001