

Book Policy Manual
Section Policies Recommended for the BOE (43.2 Winter 2025 Update)
Title RELEASED TIME FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION DURING THE SCHOOL DAY
Code po5223
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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~~ may be provided "released time" **during the school day** ~~from school~~ to attend a course in religious instruction conducted by a private entity off District property, provided that the following requirements are met, such students will not be considered absent when the:

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

Transportation of students to and from ~~released time~~ **Released Time** instruction is the complete responsibility of the sponsoring entity, the parent, guardian, and/or student. The Board ~~of Education~~, its members, and employees are immune from liability for any injuries arising from transportation to and from ~~released time~~ **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.

Students shall not be excused from a core curriculum subject course to attend ~~released time~~ **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.**

Any private entity providing religious instruction during the school day must agree that it will not provide participating students with any materials, snacks, clothing, candies, trinkets, or other items for their return to school. The District will not release students for religious instruction release time to any private provider that fails to adhere to this prohibition.

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.

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Legal R.C. 3313.6022
Attorney General's Opinion 88-001