

**MODEL POLICY FOR
RELEASED TIME RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION**

“Released time” is “a period of time during which a student is excused from school to attend a course in religious instruction conducted by a private entity off school district property.”

The Board of Education authorizes a student to be excused from school to attend a released time course in religious instruction, provided that each of the following applies:

- (1) The student's parent or guardian gives written consent;
- (2) The sponsoring entity maintains attendance records and makes them available to the school district the student attends;
- (3) Transportation to and from the place of instruction, including transportation for students with disabilities, is the complete responsibility of the sponsoring entity, parent, guardian, or student;
- (4) The sponsoring entity makes provisions for and assumes liability for the student while under the control of the sponsoring entity;
- (5) No public funds are expended and no public school personnel are involved in providing the religious instruction; and
- (6) The student assumes responsibility for any missed schoolwork.

While in attendance in a released time course in religious instruction, a student shall not be considered absent from school. No student may be released from a core curriculum subject course to attend a religious instruction course.

A school district, member of a board of education, or school district employee is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury allegedly arising during a student's transportation to or from a place of instruction when private transportation is used under a released time policy.

This policy shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the principle of equal access. This policy is not intended, and shall not be implemented or construed in any way, to affiliate the School District with, nor express the School District's preference for, any faith or religious denomination.

**MODEL POLICY TO GRANT
CREDIT FOR RELEASED TIME RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION CLASSES**
(To be adopted in conjunction with: Model Policy For Released Time Religious Instruction)

The Board of Education authorizes high school students to earn up to two units of high school credit for the completion of a released time course in religious instruction. An award of credit for a released time course of religious instruction shall be considered based on the following criteria. These criteria are substantially the same criteria used to evaluate similar nonpublic high school courses for purposes of determining whether to award credit for such courses to a student transferring from a nonpublic high school to the district:

- (1) The number of hours of classroom instruction time;
- (2) A review of the course syllabus that reflects course requirements and materials used;
- (3) The methods of assessment used in the course; and
- (4) The qualifications of the course instructor, which shall be similar to the qualification of other teachers within the district.

The number of credits earned will be determined by the number of hours of classroom instruction time as outlined in division (A) of section 3313.603 of the Ohio Revised Code. Neither religious content nor denominational affiliation shall be considered as a factor in determining whether or not to grant credit. Notwithstanding division (C)(8) of section 3313.603 of the Revised Code, high school credit awarded to a student for a released time course in religious instruction may substitute for the same amount of credit in subjects listed in that division.

Reference: Ohio Revised Code §3313.6022