

# Membership Benefits



## Best Practices/The Member Zone

– The Member Zone on the School Ministries website offers a continually updated collection of hundreds of pages of content – articles, documents and forms – that can help programs function effectively and efficiently. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Members enjoy the benefit of the collective wisdom that comes from those who have dealt with issues of concern and learned well the lessons they afforded.

## Discounts on National/State Conferences and Workshops –

Released Time teachers, administrators, volunteers, and supporters gather to be informed and inspired at School Ministries’ sponsored conferences. Presenters share their expertise in how to start, maintain and grow effective Released Time programs and members have the opportunity to question, discuss and share their experiences.

## Discounts on Publications and Newsletters –

School Ministries has a growing list of resources available for purchase, such as a DVD explaining Released Time education and its benefits and a handbook with a comprehensive step-by-step guide to starting new programs. These resources are tailored for use by those who are interested in starting and supporting RTBE efforts such as Christian leaders, educators, and other key proponents and decision makers. Available to members and nonmembers, these resources are offered at a discounted cost for School Ministries members.



## Helping Those with a Passion for Released Time Bible Education (RTBE)

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**Help on Call** – Members can get help when they need it. When asked which of School Ministries’ benefits they value most, members frequently highlight being able to discuss their problem or question with experienced and knowledgeable staff—staff that cares about them and will either have the answer or know where to find it, promptly.

**Establishing & Protecting Legality** – School Ministries tracks changes in laws of concern to Released Time programs and advises members about vital issues. If requested, School Ministries will conduct reviews to ensure that programs are following approved practices; and risk management tips help programs develop and follow proven policies and procedures. School Ministries’ staff also works with legal counsel to obtain information for its members.

**Research** – School Ministries monitors, compiles and conducts national research regarding RTBE’s benefits for students. Such documentation is important to gain support for starting and assisting new programs. For example, public school personnel—concerned that the school day is too short to allow for Released Time—often respond positively to documented research evidence that Released Time benefits students in academics, behavior and character development. Our research committee seeks input from member programs and offers opportunities to participate in research projects. School Ministries’ members benefit from this research which enhances program effectiveness and documents specific outcomes.

In addition, School Ministries researches changes to the legal landscape and maintains an independent website that provides a state-by-state analysis of RTBE-related laws, regulations and guidelines ([www.ReleasedTime.org](http://www.ReleasedTime.org)).

**National Visibility** – Being part of a national network helps programs thrive and grow because members have access to more information and greater resources than they can generate on their own. Increasingly, Released Time is building a positive national profile through School Ministries’ network which includes communities in scores of school districts in multiple states. National visibility can help potential volunteers and donors better embrace the value of Released Time and gain their support for new or established programs.

School Ministries’ leadership believes Bible study and prayer are just too important to be removed from the education of students.

For further information about Released Time Bible Education and School Ministries, visit [www.schoolministries.org](http://www.schoolministries.org) or call 803-772-5224 or email [info@schoolministries.org](mailto:info@schoolministries.org).