



Policy: 9.10

SUBJECT: RELEASED TIME FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Supersedes: JEFB
Effective: September 8, 2008
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Approved by: Detroit Board of Education

1.0 Policy

Principals will excuse students from school to attend classes in religious instruction in keeping with Michigan law, which states:

A child shall not be required to attend the public schools in the following case...

...A child is 12 or 13 and is in attendance at confirmation classes conducted for a period of five months or less.

A child who is regularly enrolled in the public schools while in attendance of religious instruction classes for no more than two class hours per week, off public school property during public school hours, upon written request of the parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis under rules promulgated by the state board.

State board rules require that:

1. Each written request of the parent, guardian, or person having control or charge of any child or children must be made annually and specify the place at which religious instruction will be given and the total amount of time per week during which release of the child or children from attendance at the public school is requested.
2. Persons or groups intending to hold or conduct religious instruction classes must notify public school officials of their intent sufficiently in advance of the beginning of such class or classes so that public school officials can comply with the request for release of children from the public school program for such purposes.
3. A record of attendance at religious instruction classes may not be maintained by public school officials. Those persons or groups offering or conducting religious instruction classes must keep records of attendance. The

responsibility for attendance at religious instruction classes belongs to the parent, guardian, or person having control or charge of any child or children.

4. No solicitation for attendance at religious instruction class will be permitted on public school premises. The staff of the public school system may neither encourage nor discourage participation in any religious instruction program.

Attachments to Policy 9.10: None

See also: None

Legal References: MCLA § 380.1561
20 USC § 6318
R340.71-R340.75

Labor Contract References: None