

CHAPTER 5.00 – STUDENTS

Release Time for Religious Instruction

5.041

- (1) A student in grades 9 through 12, with the notarized written request of the student's parent, may request permission to be excused from attendance in school to participate in religious instruction. Absence shall be limited to not more than one class period each school day, but not to exceed five hours per week. Instruction shall be given at the student's place of worship or at any other place away from school property designated by the religious group, church or denomination. The notarized statement must be submitted and approved each semester by the principal of the student's school.
- (2) A principal shall grant permission for such absences provided all of the following conditions are met:
 - (a) The student is in compliance with the Student Progression Plan, including but not limited to, minimum grades for promotion or graduation and sufficient enrollment in required courses;
 - (b) Transportation to and from religious instruction is the sole responsibility of the religious institution or parent of the student. With the parent's permission, a student with a valid driver's license may drive himself or herself.
 - (c) The parent of the student agrees in writing to release and indemnify the School Board and its agents and employees from and against any claim for injury and/or death occurring while the student is absent from school in order to attend religious instruction including travel to and from such instruction.
 - (d) The religious institution maintains weekly attendance records and makes them available to the school attended by each student.
- (3) With prior notice to the parent, a principal may terminate an individual student's permission to participate in such religious instruction for failure to meet the requirements of section (2) above. The notification shall be given in writing and the parent shall be given an opportunity to be heard by the principal.
- (4) Without prior notice to the parent, a principal may terminate an individual student's permission to participate in such religious instruction due to the student's non-attendance at such instruction. The notification shall be given in writing and the parent may request an opportunity to be heard by the principal.
- (5) This rule is in addition to excused absences for observance of a religious holiday as provided in School Board Rule 5.04.

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- (6) All rights, opportunities and responsibilities granted to a parent of a student may be exercised by an adult student on the student's own behalf and without the consent of the adult student's parent.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41; 1003.21, F.S.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: 1003.21, F.S.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE: 6A-1.09514

HISTORY: **ADOPTED: 08/14/07**
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