



POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

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Hilliard City School District
Operations Department

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RECOMMENDATION

Third Reading & Adoption
September 12, 2022

The Policy Review Committee meets quarterly each school year. All proposed new policies, revisions of current policies or repeal of a current policy are reviewed by the Policy Review Committee before being presented to the Superintendent for submission to the Board of Education. Two readings at two separate meetings shall normally be required before a new or revised policy may be adopted. Action to adopt will take place at a subsequent third meeting. However, the Board does have the option of voting for adoption at the second meeting.

The Policy Review Committee recommends the policies listed below be revised, as noted on the following pages:

1. JEFB – Released Time for Religious Instruction

Revision Notes:

- Language with a ~~line drawn through it~~ is language to be removed.
- Language underlined is language to be added.

The policies are being submitted for readings and adoption at the following Board of Education meetings:

- First reading – August 8, 2022
 - Second reading – August 22, 2022
 - Third reading and adoption – September 12, 2022
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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Section J: Student
Title	Copy of Released Time for Religious Instruction
Code	JEFB
Status	

Released Time for Religious Instruction

The Board permits students to be released from school for religious instruction consistent with law. Absence during the school day for religious instruction is permitted, provided:

1. the student's parents or guardians **submit a written request to the building principal give consent in writing;**
2. the **private sponsoring** entity providing instruction maintains attendance records and makes them available to the District; **and**
3. **the sponsoring entity provides and assumes liability for the student;**
4. **the student assumes responsibility for any missed schoolwork;**
5. **no public funds are expended and no public school personnel are involved in providing the religious instruction;**
6. **the sponsoring entity, the students, and/or their parents/guardians are solely responsible for all transportation to and from the programs and**
7. **the student is not absent from core curriculum subject courses students will not be released from any core curriculum subject to attend.**

The District is not responsible for transportation to and from the place of instruction. Regular classroom instruction missed as a result of a student's absence for religious instruction will not be made up and students assume responsibility for any missed schoolwork. Students are not considered absent from school while attending a released time course in religious instruction. The District does not aid, assist or enforce attendance in a religious instruction program. The District does not discriminate against students who participate in such program.

No public funds are expended and no public school personnel are involved in providing religious instruction. This policy is not intended and shall not be construed in any way, to associate the District with any faith or religious denomination.

CROSS REFS.: IGAC, Teaching About Religion
JED, Student Absences and Excuses
KJA, Distribution of Materials in the Schools

NOTE: House Bill 171 (2014) enacted Ohio Revised Code 3313.6022 specifying the conditions under which a board may adopt a policy on released time for religious instruction. Districts also may choose to add language to this policy authorizing high school students to earn elective credit toward graduation through released time courses, provided statutory requirements are met when evaluating the course for credit. The decision to award credit for a released time course of religious instruction must be neutral to, and cannot involve any test for religious content or denominational affiliation. Districts should work with board counsel to implement such programs.

On April 17, 2019, the Ohio Attorney General released a new opinion (2019-015) on released time for religious instruction, which focuses on what a school district's policy may permit or prohibit, and the implementation of these policies.

The opinion analyzes and resolves several specific questions and scenarios. Districts are cautioned to keep in mind that these scenarios and questions are fact-specific and rely on certain assumptions. As the facts change, so may the answer. Districts should work with board counsel to assure legal compliance when implementing these policies.

Legal

U.S. Constitution Amend. I

ORC 3313.20

ORC 3313.47

ORC 3313.6022

ORC 3321.04

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