

RELEASED TIME FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Code **JHCB** Issued **6/05**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for released time for students for religious instruction.

In order to accommodate the wishes of district parents/legal guardians, the administration will establish released time program procedures which allow students an opportunity to participate in religious instruction off the school grounds. The district assumes no responsibility for religious instruction. The purpose of this policy and program is to accommodate the requests of ~~parents~~ parents/ legal guardians with respect to the education of their children, as well as to accommodate community organizations.

All formally recognized religious groups that wish to offer religious instruction will submit a request in accordance with administrative rule JHCB-R. Students may only be released for such participation upon the written request of their ~~parents~~ parents/legal guardians in accordance with JHCB-R.

The district will not allow students to miss core academic subject classes for the purpose of religious instruction programs. All religious instruction must take place off school grounds. District officials will ensure that no public funds will be expended to support a released time program and that faculty and staff will not promote program participation.

Adopted 9/16/96; Revised 11/12/02, 6/14/05

Legal references:

A. S. C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-1-460 - South Carolina Released Time for Religious Education Act.