

Category: 6000 INSTRUCTION	Policy Number: 6425
Policy Title: Release Time	Effective Date: May 17, 2005

The district allows release time for students from the regular school day for religious instruction or other purposes, i.e., student employment, vocational classes, and advanced curriculum courses. Participation in release time is voluntary on the part of the student. The conditions for release time are as follows:

1. Students in grades nine through ten (9-10) may be excused from school for early release time not exceeding five (5) periods in each week and not exceeding one hundred sixty-five (165) hours during any one school year. Students in grades eleven and twelve (11-12) may be excused for early release time for more than five periods each week, if they are on target for having the required graduation credits.
2. Students desiring to have release time must have a signed parental release form on file in the high school office or be on a list of students registered for Seminary. This will become a part of the student's permanent record and must be received before a student will be permitted to leave school grounds during the school day to attend a release time program. The school will maintain a record of each student's daily schedule that indicates when a student is released for classes in religious education or for other purposes.
3. Release time programs may not interfere with the scheduling of classes, activities and programs of the district. Participation in release time shall not reduce the minimum graduation requirements.
4. No credit shall be awarded by this district for completion of courses during release time for religious purposes.
5. The district is not liable for any injury, act or event occurring while the student participates in a release time program, nor will it be liable or responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of students while they are transported to and from participating in release time programs. Students need to provide their own transportation to and from school for Early Release.
6. It is mandatory for students to be off campus during Release Time and/or Early Release.

Religious release time programs differ in several major ways:

1. Registration for religious courses is separate from the regular school registration and will not be done on school property. Religion classes may not be held in any school facilities.
2. Public school teachers may not teach religious courses and teachers of religious courses are not considered to be members of the school faculty, nor are they allowed to participate in any school functions.
3. Class times for religious courses must not conflict with required school classes.
4. Attending a religious class on release time is voluntary; public schools may not encourage students to attend religious classes and students who don't wish to enroll in them cannot be disciplined or sanctioned for not participating.

Legal Reference: Idaho Code 33-519

Reference: Policy 6427, "Sectarian Instruction Forbidden"