

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES OF THE
MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 8.15
RELEASED TIME FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION**

Section 119.19, Stats., provides that the Board may, under certain circumstances, permit MPS pupils to be released from school during school hours for the purpose of receiving religious instruction. The Board has determined that it will adopt a released-time program which will operate as follows:

(1) A pupil may be released from school during school hours in order to receive religious instruction only upon the written permission of the pupil's parent or guardian.

(2) All religious instruction shall take place off MPS property.

(3) A pupil may not be absent from school for the purpose of receiving religious instruction for more than 180 minutes in any given school week.

(4) A pupil and the pupil's parent or guardian shall, to the extent reasonably possible, schedule release time for religious instruction in such a way as to not disturb the carrying out of the educational program offered by MPS to either the pupil participating in the released time program or to any other MPS pupils. Principals are to approve the periods of absence requested by the parent or guardian of the pupil if the periods of absence meet this condition.

(5) All supervisors of religious instruction shall send a monthly attendance report to the principal of the school that the pupil participating in the released time program regularly attends. Monthly attendance reports shall include the name of the participating pupil and the days and hours that the pupil attended religious instruction.

(6) Principals are to send all monthly attendance reports received to the Director of the Division of Student Services. The Director may withdraw permission to be absent from school for the purpose of receiving religious instruction from any pupil who does not attend the religious instruction.

(7) MPS shall remain neutral in all respects to the administration of the released-time program and shall not afford religious groups preferential treatment, but shall allow such groups to disseminate permission slips and to disseminate and post written materials and to announce their released-time activities in the same manner that other non-school groups are permitted to do so.

(8) The Board is not responsible for transporting a pupil to or from religious instruction.

(9) The Board shall not be liable for any pupil who is absent from school under the released time program.

History: Adopted 9-26-00

Legal Ref.: W.S. Chapters 119.19

Cross Ref.: Admin. Policy 8.15 Released Time for Religious Instruction

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