



Religious Expression Days (HB 241/Ohio Revised Code Section 3320.04.)

PCSD Parents/Guardians,

Recently the Ohio Legislature passed HB 214. The new law (ORC 3320.04) states that Ohio public school districts will develop a process for parents/guardians to provide school officials with notice of their child's absence due to observance of a religious holiday based on the student's sincerely held religious beliefs. These religious expression absences will be excused and will not count toward excessive absence criteria. The law states that school districts will grant students up to three (3) religious expression days per school year. As we are halfway through the school year, the number of days will be prorated at 1.5 days.

Based on this new law:

- PCSD students will be granted up to 1.5 religious expression days for the second half of the 2024-2025 school year provided that the parent or guardian provides notice to their child's school of the selected days within 14 school days of the start of the semester (or within 14 days of a newly enrolled student's first day in the school or district).
- Parents/guardians should notify their child's school attendance office by Friday, February 14th if they are going to be absent for a religious expression day during the second half of the current school year.
- Students will be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities on a religious expression day, as required by ORC.
- These religious expression days do not count toward parental notification requirements under ORC 3321.191 (C)(1) for excessive absences. Similar to a medically-excused absence.
- These days are not included in HB410 calculations.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has provided a non-exhaustive list of major holidays for the second half of the school year. Note that the PCSD does not have school on some of these dates:

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| ● Ramadan - February 28 - March 30 | ● Good Friday - April 18 |
| ● Ash Wednesday - March 5 | ● Easter - April 20 |
| ● Eid al-Fitr - March 29-30 | ● Eid al-Adha - June 6-7 |
| ● Pesach (Passover) April 12-20 | |

If you have questions about this policy, please contact Brad Leyrer, Director of EMIS and Assessment, leyrerb@parmacityschools.org and include your child's principal(s) on the email.

To report your child's absence, please call or email your child's school attendance office.