

Parental Notice Form for Off-Campus Religious Instruction

Indiana law on off-campus religious instruction

Following receipt of written notice from the student's parent or guardian, the law requires school principals to allow a student to attend religious instruction conducted by a church, an association of churches, or an association that is organized for religious instruction and incorporated under Indiana law as an excused absence.

- This instruction may not exceed:
 - K – Grade 8: 120 minutes/week
 - High school: amount of time equal to attending 1 elective course at the high school per week
- The entity offering this religious instruction to a student shall:
 - work in a collaborative manner with the principal to ensure the period(s) in which the student receives religious instruction are the least disruptive to the instructional time of the student.
 - maintain attendance records and allow a school attendance officer to inspect them upon request.
- The religious instruction may not be supported by public funds.

Notice to parents or guardians

- The School Corporation does not require, prohibit, encourage or discourage student from participating in off-campus religious instruction. A parent or guardian's notice should be based on their independent choice and not based on representations made by the School Corporation, or its employees, volunteers, partners, vendors, contractors, students, or other associated individuals. The School Corporation seeks only to permit such instruction in accordance with Indiana law if directed to do so by a student's parent or guardian.
- The School Corporation does not provide, fund, lead, or otherwise conduct religious instruction on or off campus. This instruction is provided solely by other entities that are completely separate from the School Corporation and outside of the Corporation's control.
- The School Corporation does not provide or supervise transportation to or from off campus religious instruction.
- The School Corporation cannot and does not hire, conduct background checks, vet, train, supervise, evaluate, employ, direct, or otherwise exert any control over the employees, members of clergy, volunteers, vendors, contractors, partners, participants, or others associated with the entity that provides off campus religious instruction. For example, the School Corporation does not control trainings for religious instruction leaders on safety, first aid, student medical needs, needs of students with disabilities under Section 504 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, curriculum, instruction, or any other information. As such, the School Corporation makes no representations about and is not responsible for the acts of any such persons or entities, including but not limited to any acts of negligence, intentional harm, abuse, neglect, or otherwise harmful or inappropriate acts that might cause harm to the student now or in the future.
- The School Corporation does not communicate with parents or students on behalf of any entity providing off campus religious instruction, nor does it communicate with an entity providing religious instruction on behalf of parents or students. Parents should

communicate directly with the entity providing religious instruction if they have questions about transportation, safety, instruction, staffing, or other topics.

- The parent or guardian must follow all other School Corporation policies, such as policies on parent-school communication, attendance, etc.
- The parent or guardian may provide or revoke this notice of permission for student to attend off campus religious instruction at any time during the school year. The notice must be in writing.

Parent notice to school corporation

I, the undersigned parent/guardian, on behalf of myself and my child _____ (“student”), an enrolled student of the School Corporation, provide this notice that student will participate in off campus religious instruction at an entity referenced above in accordance with Indiana law.

Name and contact information for the entity providing religious instruction:

Dates and times requested:

Transportation to the religious instruction, if applicable:

- ☐ The arrangement does not require the student to transport from school.
- ☐ Pickup by parent or other person: _____
- ☐ Student will self-transport in accordance with school policies.

Transportation back to school, if applicable:

- ☐ The arrangement does not require the student to transport back to school.
- ☐ Return by parent or other person: _____
- ☐ Student will self-transport back to school in accordance with school policies.

This permission notice is valid for the school year 20____-____.

I have read and understand the School Corporation Notice to Parents above.

Parent/Guardian Name

Signature

Date

Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District

Adopted: July 21, 2025