



Religious Expression Days Policy - 2025-2026

PCSD Parents/Guardians,

Ohio recently enacted legislation (ORC 3320.04) which requires Ohio public school districts to 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.

Based on this law:

- PCSD students will be granted up to three (3) religious expression days for the 2025-2026 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, September 12th if they are going to be absent for a religious expression day during the 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. (This is 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 school year. This list is provided as a courtesy and is not a complete list of eligible holidays. *Note that the PCSD does not have scheduled classes on some of these dates:*

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| ● Rosh Hashanah - Sept. 22-24, 2025 | ● Eid al-Fitr - March 19-20, 2026 |
| ● Yom Kippur - Oct. 1-2, 2025 | ● Pesach (Passover) - April 1-9, 2026 |
| ● Diwali - Oct. 20-21, 2025 | ● Good Friday - April 3, 2026 |
| ● Hanukkah - Dec. 21-29, 2025 | ● Easter - April 5, 2026 |
| ● Ramadan - Feb. 17-March 18, 2026 | ● Eid al-Adha - May 26-27, 2026 |
| ● Ash Wednesday - February 18, 2026 | |

If you have questions about this policy, please contact Brad Leyrer, Executive Director of Human Resources and Information Systems at leyrerb@parmacityschools.org and include your child's principal in the email.

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