Policy

RELEASED TIME FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Code **JHCB** Revised **11/26**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for released time for students for religious instruction.

The board may release students from school at the written request of their parents/legal guardian for the purpose of religious instruction for a portion of the day. The school will consider this part of the school day.

When approving the release of students for religious instruction, the board assumes no responsibility for the program or liability for the students involved. Its attitude will be one of cooperation with the various sponsoring groups of the school district.

The sponsoring group or the student's parent/legal guardian is completely responsible for transportation to and from the place of instruction. The district assumes no responsibility or liability for such transportation.

Religious instruction must take place away from school property and at a regularly designated location.

District officials will ensure that no public funds will be expended to support a release time program and that district staff and faculty will not promote or discourage participation by district students in a released time program.

Elective Credit

The district will accept no more than two elective Carnegie unit credits annually for religious instruction taken during the school day in accordance with this policy. The district will evaluate the classes on the basis of purely secular criteria prior to accepting credit. The district will accept off-campus transfer of credit for released time classes with prior approval.

Adopted 10/4/98; Issued 3/4/13; Revised 6/2/14; 9/10/18; 11/26

Legal references:

A. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:
   a. Section 59-1-460 – South Carolina Released Time for Religious Education Act.
   b. Section 59-39-112 – South Carolina Released Time Credit Act.

B. State Board of Education Regulations:
   a. R-43-234 – Defined program, grades 9-12.