

Section 7 - STUDENTS

## **7:80 Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance**

### Religious Observance<sup>C1</sup>

A student shall be released from school, as an excused absence, because of religious reasons, to observe a religious holiday, or because the student's religion forbids secular activity on a particular day(s) or time of day. The parent(s)/guardian(s) must give written notice to the District five days before the student's anticipated absence.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and distribute to teachers appropriate procedures regarding student absences for religious reasons, including , how teachers are notified of a student's impending absence, and the State law requirement that teachers provide the student an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

### Religious Instruction

A student shall be released from school for a day or portion of a day for the purpose of religious instruction. A letter, requesting the student's absence and written by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), must be given to the Building Principal at least five days before the day the student is to be absent.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/26-1](#) and [5/26-2b](#).

[775 ILCS 35/](#), Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

CROSS REF.: 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy)

**Joliet Township High School District 204**

---

### PRESSPlus Comments

- C1 This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for

relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com)), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

**Issue 122, June 2026**