

**Release from School**

Student release during the instructional day shall be conducted in accordance with District procedures to ensure student safety, proper authorization, and accurate attendance accounting.

Exception for Released Time Course

For purposes of this policy, a released time course shall have the same definition as provided by state law, to wit: Pursuant to Texas Education Code §25.0875(a), a released time course means a course in religious instruction offered by a private entity.

A student shall be permitted to attend a released time course in accordance with the following requirements:

1. The parent or guardian has provided written consent for the student to attend the released time course;
2. The private entity offering the released time course maintains attendance records and will make those records available to the District;
3. The private entity, parent or guardian, or student assumes responsibility for transportation, including transportation for a student with a disability, to and from the location at which the released course is offered;
4. The private entity makes provisions for and assumes liability for the student enrolled in the released time course while the student is under the private entity's care; and
5. The student is responsible for any school work and assignments issued during the student's absence from the District.

The District shall be prohibited from using District funds, excluding de minimis costs, to facilitate the student attending a released time course.

A private entity shall be prohibited from offering the released time course on District property unless the use is in accordance with policy GKD.

The District shall not interfere with a parent's or guardian's ability to request or access a released time course for the student.

Time Excused

In accordance with Texas Education Code §25.0875(b), the District shall excuse a student from instructional time to participate in a released time course for a minimum of one hour and a maximum of five hours per week, as requested by the student's parent or legal guardian.