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CAPITAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Board Meeting Date: October 19, 2026
2. Item Title: V.B.6 First reading and discussion of proposed revisions to CMS Board J-1900, Released Time for Religious Instruction.
3. Name of Presenter: H. Gutierrez, Superintendent
4. This item is for: ___ Action ____ Consent Agenda XX Discussion ____ Report/Information
5. Proposed Motion (Action Items Only): Discussion only
6. Executive Summary: Please see attached.

RELEASED TIME FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

A student may, subject to the approval of the school principal, be absent from school to participate in religious instruction for not more than one (1) class period per school day with the written consent of the student's parent or guardian at a time that is not in conflict with the academic program of the school. The principal's approval shall be exercised in a neutral and nondiscriminatory manner consistent with this policy and applicable law.

The public school shall provide time for the student to make up schoolwork missed during the absence.

The School District and the public school shall not assume responsibility for the religious instruction of any student or permit religious instruction to be conducted on school property.

~~Students at the school may be granted released time to attend religion classes near the school campus under the following conditions and guidelines:~~

- ~~• The person who has custody of the student has given written consent.~~
- ~~• Any religious instruction or exercise takes place at a suitable place away from school property designated by a church or religious denomination or group.~~
- ~~• Released time should not interfere with the student's normal schedule.~~
- ~~• Time shall be provided for the student to make up the school work if missed during the absence.~~
- ~~• School credit will not be given for religion classes, nor will the course title be placed on the permanent record of the student.~~
- ~~• Discipline problems, reporting to parents, and attendance and other procedures necessary to religion class operation shall be the responsibility of the religion class instructors or supervisors.~~

Adopted: date of manual adoption

LEGAL REF.:
22-12A-9 NMSA

CROSS REF.:
ACD - Commitment to Religious Neutrality

Note: This material is written by NMSBA for informational purposes only, and not as legal advice. You may wish to consult with your attorney for further explanation and advice as to the content of this advisory.