

Document Status: Draft Update

STUDENTS

7:80 Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance

A student shall be released from school, as an excused absence, because of religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday, or for religious instruction, or because the student's religion forbids secular activity on a particular day(s) or time of day. The student's parent/guardian must give written notice to the Building Principal at least five calendar days before the student's anticipated absence(s). ~~This notice shall satisfy the District's requirement for a written excuse when the student returns to school.~~ [PRESSPlus1](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and distribute to teachers appropriate procedures regarding student absences for religious reasons ~~and include a list of religious holidays on which a student shall be excused from school attendance,~~ including how teachers are notified of a student's impending absence, and the State law requirement that teachers provide the student with an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

LEGAL REF.:

~~Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 775 ILCS 35/.~~

105 ILCS 5/26-1 and 5/26-2b.

775 ILCS 35/, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

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

PRESSPlus Comments

[PRESSPlus 1](#). Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/26-1, amended by P.A. 102-406. Schools cannot require students who are excused for religious reasons to submit a written excuse after returning to school. **Issue 108, November 2021**