

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

The online version of this policy is official.
Therefore, all printed versions of this
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RELEASED TIME COURSES IN RELIGIOUS OR MORAL INSTRUCTION

It is the policy of the Clarksville-Montgomery County School system that all CMCSS students shall be excused from school to attend a released time course in religious moral instruction for one (1) hour per day with permission from a parent or legal guardian, regardless of whether the CMCSS Board of Education has adopted a policy related to this item pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-2-130. The following requirements must be met in order to grant the student an excused absence:

1. The student's parent or legal guardian signs a written consent form prior to the student's participation in the released time course; this form should provide a disclaimer that eliminates actual or perceived affirmative school sponsorship or attribution to CMCSS or its employees of an endorsement of a religious instruction; and waives any right of the student's parent or legal guardian to hold the school, CMCSS, or the employees of CMCSS liable for the student participating in a released time course.
2. The released time course shall be conducted off public school property;
3. The independent entity conducting the released time course maintains attendance records and makes the records available to CMCSS.;
4. Any transportation to and from the place of instruction, including transportation for students with disabilities, is the responsibility of the independent entity, parent, legal guardian, or student;
5. The independent entity assumes liability for the student attending the released time course from the time that the student leaves the school until the student returns to the school;
6. No public funds are expended and no public school personnel are involved in providing the instruction for released time courses;
7. The student assumes responsibility for any missed schoolwork;
8. The principal of the school, or the principal's designee, shall determine the classes from which the student may be excused to participate in the released time course; provided, that the student may not be excused to participate in a released time course during any class in which subject matter is taught for which the state requires an examination for state or federal accountability purposes; and
9. The released time courses shall coincide with school class schedules.

Implementing Procedures: None

Associated Documents: T.C.A. § 49-2-130

([INS-F136](#)) – Permission Form for Students to Participate in Released Time Instruction

Revision History:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Rev.</u>	<u>Description of Revision:</u>
8/24/20		Initial Release

***** End of Policy *****