

Hermiston School District 8R

Code: **JEFB**
Adopted: 11/12/13
Revised/Readopted: 7/24/17
Orig. Code(s): JEFB

Release Time for Religious Instruction**

Students may be released from district schools to attend weekday schools giving instruction in religion. Qualifying religious schools must be able to demonstrate the following:

1. Licensed by the Oregon Department of Education or affiliated/sponsored by a local church;
2. Evidence of liability insurance;
3. Other requirements deemed appropriate by the district (e.g., appropriate background checks for all personnel, safe learning environment).

A student's parent or guardian (if the student is under the age of 18) must submit the request to be excused in writing for pre-approval by the principal.

In accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 339.420, the principal may release students for periods, not to exceed two hours in any week for grades 1-8 and not to exceed five hours in any week for grades 9-12.

Any student unable to attend classes on a particular day due to religious beliefs shall be excused from attendance requirements for that day.

No such absence shall be counted against a student in determining exclusion, failure or reduction of grades. Any tests and assignments a student misses because of religious instruction shall be given to the student at another time.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 339.420](#)

[ORS 659.850](#)

[OAR 581-021-0046](#)

Dilger v. Sch. Dist. 24CJ, 222 Or. 108 (1960).