



**Department of  
Education**

*Joel I. Klein, Chancellor*

**TO:** Senior Leadership Team, School Support Organizations, Community Superintendents, Superintendent of District 75, Superintendent of Alternative High Schools and Programs, Integrated Service Center Executive Directors, Principals, CPAC President, UFT President, CSA President

**FROM:** Kathleen Grimm  
Deputy Chancellor for Finance and Administration

**SUBJECT:** 2008-2009 Released Time Program for Religious Instruction

**DATE:** August 5, 2008

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Pursuant to Chancellor’s Regulation A-630, “a student shall be released for the last hour of the instructional day on Wednesdays to participate in a program of religious instruction.” This memorandum indicates the start and end dates of the Released Time Program for Religious Instruction and the exceptions to that schedule for the 2008-2009 school year.

**1. Scheduled Start and End Dates and Citywide Exceptions**

In accordance with Chancellor’s Regulation A-630, Principals shall release a student for religious instruction upon receipt, from the parent, of a written request to authorize the release and of a copy of the student’s registration in the religious instruction program. For school year 2008-2009, the Released Time Program for Religious Instruction is scheduled for every Wednesday from: **Wednesday, September 10, 2008** to **Wednesday, June 24, 2009**, except as follows:

	<b>Which Students Not to Release</b>	<b>Rationale for Not Releasing</b>
1.1 September 10, 2008	Students of the Roman Catholic and Protestant faiths	Religious instruction programs have not yet started for students of the Roman Catholic and Protestant faiths.
1.2 September 17 & 24, 2008	Students of the Protestant faith	Religious instruction programs for students of the Protestant faith start on October 1, 2008.
1.3 November 26, 2008	Students of the Roman Catholic and Protestant faiths	No religious instruction programs for students of the Roman Catholic and Protestant faiths.
1.4 April 8, 2009	Students of the Roman Catholic and Protestant faiths	No religious instruction programs for students of the Roman Catholic and Protestant faiths.
1.5 June 17, 2009	Students of the Roman Catholic faith	No religious instruction programs for students of the Roman Catholic faith.
1.6 June 24, 2009	Students of the Roman Catholic and Protestant faiths	No religious instruction program for students of the Roman Catholic and Protestant faiths.

**2. Reporting Requirements**

In order for the ATS system to appropriately reflect the Released Time Program attendance data, please ensure that **Reason Code 56** (Present, Released for “Religious Instruction – Part of the Day”) is properly entered for students. For additional information, please contact the Office of Attendance at (212) 374-6095.

**3. Additional Information**

For additional information regarding Released Time for Religious Instruction, please refer to Chancellor’s Regulation A-630, entitled “Religious Accommodation of Students.”