

2015-16 Released Time Program for Religious Instruction

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 2015-16 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 of a written request, from a parent/guardian, to authorize the release of the student and a copy of the student’s registration in the religious instruction program. For school year 2015-16, the Released Time Program for Religious Instruction is scheduled for every Wednesday from: **Wednesday, September 9, 2015 to Wednesday, June 22, 2016**, except as follows:

Dates	Which students Not to Release	Rationale for Not Releasing¹
September 9 - January 27, 2016	Students of the Protestant faith	Religious instruction for students of the Protestant faith begins on February 3, 2016
September 9, 2015	Students of the Roman Catholic faith	Religious instruction programs for students of the Roman Catholic faith begin on September 16, 2015
September 23, 2015	No students to release	NYC Public schools closed (Yom Kippur)
November 11, 2015	No students to release	NYC Public schools closed (Veteran’s Day)
November 25, 2015	Students of the Roman Catholic faith Students of the Protestant faith	Thanksgiving Eve. No religious instruction programs for students of the Roman Catholic faith nor of the Protestant faith.
December 23, 2015	Students of the Roman Catholic faith Students of the Protestant faith	Christmas Eve. No religious instruction programs for students of the Roman Catholic faith nor of the Protestant faith.
December 30, 2015	No students to release	NYC Public schools closed (Winter Recess)
February 17, 2016	No students to release	NYC Public schools closed (Midwinter Recess)
March 30, 2016	Students of the Roman Catholic faith	Easter Recess for Catholic schools. No religious instruction programs for students of the Roman Catholic faith.
April 27, 2016	No students to release	NYC Public schools closed (Spring Recess)
June 22, 2016	Students of the Roman Catholic faith Students of the Protestant faith	June 15, 2016 is the last day of Religious instruction for students of the Roman Catholic and Protestant faith.

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, contact the Office of School and Youth Development at (212) 374-6095.

3. Student transportation

The Office of Pupil Transportation provides school bus or metro card transportation only for transportation to and from school. Arrangements to travel to and from religious instruction are the sole responsibility of the parent. For questions, contact OPT customer service at (718) 392-8855.

4. Additional Information

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

¹ The dates when the private religious programs are not in operation have been verified by the various religious organizations.