

2016-17 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 2016-17 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 2016-17, the Released Time Program for Religious Instruction is scheduled for every Wednesday from: **Wednesday, September 14, 2016 to Wednesday, June 21, 2017**, except as follows:

Dates	Religious Released Time (RRT) program not in session	Rationale for Not Releasing ¹
September 14, 2016	Roman Catholic faith	Religious instruction programs for students of the Roman Catholic faith begin on September 21, 2016
September 14 – 28, 2016	Protestant faith	Religious instruction for students of the Protestant faith begins on October 5, 2016
October 12, 2016	No Religious Instruction	NYC Public schools closed (Yom Kippur)
November 2, 2016	Protestant faith	Religious instruction for students of the Protestant faith is cancelled
November 23, 2016	Roman Catholic faith	Thanksgiving Eve. Religious instruction for students of the Roman Catholic faith is cancelled
December 28, 2016	No Religious Instruction	NYC Public schools closed (Winter Recess)
February 1 – June 21, 2017	Protestant faith	Religious instruction for students of the Protestant faith ends on January 25, 2017
February 22, 2017	No Religious Instruction	NYC Public schools closed (Midwinter Recess)
April 12, 2017	No Religious Instruction	NYC Public schools closed (Spring Recess)
June 21, 2017	Roman Catholic faith	Religious instruction for students of the Roman Catholic faith ends on June 14, 2017

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.”

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