

**2014-15 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 2014-15 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 2014-15, the Released Time Program for Religious Instruction is scheduled for every Wednesday from: **Wednesday, September 10, 2014 to Wednesday, June 24, 2015**, except as follows:

Dates	Which students Not to Release	Rationale for Not Releasing <sup>1</sup>
September 10 - December 17, 2014	Students of the Protestant faith	Religious instruction for students of the Protestant faith begins on Jan. 7, 2015
September 10 - 17, 2014	Students of the Roman Catholic faith	Religious instruction programs for students of the Roman Catholic faith begin on September 24, 2014
November 26, 2014	Students of the Roman Catholic faith	No religious instruction programs for students of the Roman Catholic faith
December 24, 2014 & December 31, 2014	No students to release	NYC Public schools closed (Winter Recess)
February 18, 2015	No students to release	NYC Public schools closed (Midwinter Recess)
April 8, 2015	No students to release	NYC Public schools closed (Spring Recess)
June 17 - 24, 2015	Students of the Roman Catholic faith	June 10, 2015 is the last day of Religious instruction for students of the Roman Catholic 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. Schools may also contact their network’s Transportation Liaison.

**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.”

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