

Religious Expression Days Policy

The School shall reasonably accommodate the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of individual students with regard to all examinations or other academic requirements and absences for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system.

(A) Absences for Holidays

(1) The School will permit a student to be absent for up to three religious expression days each school year to take holidays for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system or participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or other religious or spiritual organization.

Such holidays include but are not limited to: Eid, Good Friday, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Passover.

This list is non-exhaustive. The School shall not unreasonably withhold or deny permission for other holidays. The School shall not deny accommodation to a student for a holiday or festival of the student's faith or religious or spiritual belief system that does not appear on this list. The inclusion or exclusion of a religious holiday or festival on this list shall not preclude a student from full and reasonable accommodations for any sincerely held religious beliefs and practices with regard to all examinations or other academic requirements and absences for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system provided under section B below.

(2) The School will not impose an academic penalty as a result of a student being absent as permitted pursuant to this policy. The School will also permit students to participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities on days in which the student was otherwise absent for a religious expression day under this policy.

(B) Alternative Accommodations

(1) The School will provide students with alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements missed due to an absence pursuant to this policy if not later than fourteen school days after the first day of school, or fourteen school days after the date of enrollment for a student who transfers to or enrolls in the School after the first day of school, the parent or guardian of a student provides the School principal with written notice of up to three specific dates for which alternative accommodations are requested, if an absence approved under this policy conflicts with an examination or other academic requirement on that date.

Upon approval of a request that satisfies this Section (B)(1) the principal shall require the appropriate classroom teacher or teachers to schedule a time and date for an alternative examination or other academic requirement if the approved student absence creates a conflict, which may be before or after the time and date the examination or other academic requirement was originally scheduled.

(2) The principal shall approve not more than three written requests per school year from a student's parent or guardian for an excused absence under this policy. The principal shall approve such requests without inquiry into the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system. However, the principal may verify a request received under Section (A) of this policy by contacting the parent or guardian whose signature appears on the request. If a parent or guardian disputes having signed such a request, the principal may deny the request.

(C) Posting

The School will post in a prominent location on the School's web site this policy and the contact information of the principal who can provide further information about this policy.

(D) Annual Notification & Procedure for Requests

Each school year the School will convey to parents and guardians this policy which includes the procedure for requesting accommodations. Such annual notification may occur by inclusion in the Parent-Student Handbook.

Absences and accommodations under this policy may be made by submitting to the School principal a request in writing, which includes e-mail.

The written request shall include:

- student name
- the requested accommodation (days to be missed or academic/examination alternative)
- a statement that the request is for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief
- the parent/guardian name and signature (email shall be considered signed)
- the parent/guardian contact information

Parents and Guardians should try to submit requests in as far as advance as possible to allow the School to most effectively make the accommodations.

(E) Grievances

A student, parent, or guardian may notify the School of any grievance with regard to the implementation of this policy by contacting the School Superintendent.

(F) Absences Do Not Count Toward Intervention

The School shall not consider any days a student is excused under this policy in determining absence hours for the purposes of parental notification under ORC 3321.191(C)(1).

Religious Expression in Ohio Schools

Pursuant to [Ohio Revised Code 3320.04](#), which becomes effective on Oct. 24, 2024, the Department of Education and Workforce compiled this non-exhaustive list of major religious holidays for the next two school years which schools and districts may use and add to when creating their policy for excusing students for religious expression.

Schools and districts must adopt a policy that reasonably accommodates a student’s sincerely held religious beliefs and practices for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system. Students are given up to three religious expression days per school year provided that the parent or guardian provides written notice to the school or district of the selected days within 14 school days of the start of school (or within 14 days of a newly enrolled student’s first day in the school or district). The policy must allow students to participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities on a religious expression day.

Schools and districts must post and communicate the policy to families and students. Each school or district must collaborate with the student and family on accommodations needed when there is a conflict between a religious expression day and a school assessment or academic requirement. No inclusion or exclusion of a religious holiday or festival on this list shall preclude a student from full and reasonable accommodations for any sincerely held religious beliefs and practices for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system.

These three religious expression days do not count toward parental notification requirements under [ORC 3321.191 \(C\)\(1\)](#) for excessive absences.

Non-exhaustive List of Major Religious Holidays

Rosh Hashanah	Oct. 2-4, 2024	Sept. 22-24, 2025
Yom Kippur	Oct. 11-12, 2024	Oct. 1-2, 2025
Diwali	Oct. 31 - Nov 1, 2024	Oct. 20-21, 2025
Hanukkah	Dec. 25, 2024 - Jan. 2, 2025	Dec. 21-29, 2025
Ramadan	Feb. 28 - March 30, 2025	Feb. 17 - March 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday	March 5, 2025	Feb. 18, 2026
Eid al-Fitr	March 29-30, 2025	March 19-20, 2026
Pesach (Passover)	April 12-20, 2025	April 1-9, 2026
Good Friday	April 18, 2025	April 3, 2026
Easter	April 20, 2025	April 5, 2026
Eid al-Adha	June 6-7, 2025	May 26-27, 2026