

MOTION FY2025-10-22  
DATE: 10-23-2024

**Religious Expression Days and Religious Accommodations**

The School will 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.

**Absences**

Any student may 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 to participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or other religious or spiritual organization. No academic penalty will be imposed as a result of a student being absent as permitted in this policy. Students may participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities on days in which the student is otherwise absent for a religious-expression day.

**Academic Accommodations**

In order to be provided with alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements missed due to a religious expression day, the parent or guardian of a student must provide the Head Administrator with written notice of up to three specific dates for which alternative accommodations are requested 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 district after the first day of school.

The Head Administrator shall approve not more than three written requests per school year from a student's parent or guardian for an excused religious-expression day absence. The Head Administrator shall approve such requests without inquiry into the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system; however, the Head Administrator may verify a request for a religious expression day by contacting the parent or guardian whose signature appears on the request. If a parent or guardian disputes having signed such a request, the Head Administrator may deny the request.

Upon approval of a religious expression day absence under this policy, the Head Administrator 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.

**Religious Holidays**

The following is a **non-exhaustive** list of major religious holidays, festivals, and religious observations for which an excused absence under this policy shall not be unreasonably withheld or denied for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years:

**Judaism**

Tu BiShvat  
Purim  
Yorn HaShoah  
Lag B'Omer  
Pesach (Passover)  
Yorn HaSho'ah  
Yorn Ha'Azmaut  
Shavuot  
Tisha B'Av  
Rosh Hashanah  
Yorn Kippur  
Sukkot  
Shemini  
Sim chat Torah  
Hanukkah

**Christianity**

Feast of Mary Mother of God  
Christmas - Eastern Orthodox  
Epiphany  
Ash Wednesday  
Lent  
Orthodox Lent  
Feast of the Annunciation  
Palm Sunday  
Holy Thursday  
Good Friday  
Easter  
Pascha/ Easter (Eastern Orthodox)  
Feast of the Ascension  
Pentecost  
Trinity Sunday  
Corpus Christi Sunday  
Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Nativity of St. John the Baptist  
Feast of Saints Peter and Paul  
Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola  
Feast of the Assumption of Mary  
All Saints Day  
All Souls Day

Dia de los Muertos  
Feast of Christ the King  
Advent Season  
Feast of St. Francis Xavier  
Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Christmas

**Islam**

Sabe-Miraj or Lailatul Me'raj  
Sabe Ba rat  
Ramadan  
Lailatul Qadr  
Eid al-Fitr  
Day of Arafa / Haj/Waqf of Arafa  
Eid-ul Adha  
Islamic New Year  
Ashura  
Mawlid-al-Nabi

**Hinduism**

Maha Shivaratri  
Shri Ramakrishna Jayanti  
Holi  
Rama Navami  
Mahavir-Jayanti  
Raksha Bandhan  
Krishna Janmashtami  
Navaratri  
Diwali

**Buddhism**

Bodhi Day  
Lunar New Year  
Magha Puja Day  
Vesak  
Buddha Day/Visakha Puja  
Diwali

**Sikh**

Birthday of Guru Go bind Singh Sahib  
Mahavir-Jayanti  
Vaisakhi  
Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib  
Diwali  
Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib  
Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib

**Bahá'í**

'Ala' (Loftiness)  
Naw-Ruz  
Ridvan  
Declaration of the Bab  
Ascension of Baha'u'llah  
Martyrdom of the Bab  
Birth of the Bab  
Birth of Bahauallah  
Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha

**Shinto**

Gantan-sai  
Setsubum-sai

**Other**

Kwanzaa  
Lunar New Year

**Grievances**

A student, parent, or guardian who disagrees with the implementation of this policy may notify the Head Administrator of any grievance by electronic mail within 5 (five) days of receiving a decision concerning a religious expression day request or academic accommodation with which the student, parent, or guardian disagrees. The Head Administrator will review the grievance and make a final decision regarding the request within 5 (five) days of receiving the grievance.

For further information about the policy, or to make notifications or requests under the policy, contact Head Administrator Steven Nichols, at [nichols.steven@cantonharbor.org](mailto:nichols.steven@cantonharbor.org).

*Ohio:* R.C. 3320.04

*Cross Reference:* Policy No. 4201, Attendance, Absence & Truancy.