

## **RELIGIOUS ABSENCE**

In recognition of the fact that certain holy days occur during the school year, the School Committee hereby adopts the following policy to ensure fair and sensitive treatment for all students:

1. Excused absence will be allowed on major religious days to enable students to participate in their religious activities. The exercise of conscience is a personal matter and should not be a matter of public discussion.
2. Every pupil who is absent for a legitimate reason, including absence for religious reasons, is allowed to make up, within a reasonable time period, the work covered and the assignments made during his or her absence.
3. Long term reports or special projects which are due on one of the major religious days are to be submitted to the teacher at a mutually agreed upon date following the pupil's return to school, with no penalty for late filing.
4. Teachers are expected to exercise sound judgment in carrying out work when some students may be absent because of a religious holy day. Provision should be made for students who expect to be absent to obtain assignments that might be necessary ahead of time and to have class work reviewed by the teacher. In no situation should a student be made uncomfortable because he or she chooses to exercise his or her religious convictions. Because many religious observances often involve family activities, students should not be expected to complete homework, study for tests, or do other school work during their absence.
5. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the school Principal.

Adopted: November 21, 2011

Revised: September 25, 2017