

JHCB—Released Time for Religious Instruction

Program Requirements

Religious organizations wishing to provide religious instruction to White Pine students during the School day must enter into an agreement with the School. The agreement will include the following:

- The religious organization will agree to take responsibility for the safety of students from the time they leave the School campus until the time they arrive back at School. Religious instruction will take place at a suitable place away from School property as designated by the church or religious organization.
- The religious organization will agree to provide the School with signed permission slips from the parent or guardian of each participating student. Printing and distribution of the slips will be done at no cost to the School.
- Participation in the program will be limited to students who have passing grades in all courses during the previous trimester and for whom a period of daily religious instruction can be scheduled without conflict with the academic program.
- If requested by the School, participating organizations must agree to provide the School with satisfactory information concerning student attendance in a manner which does not entangle the School in the operation of the religious instructional program.
- Participating organizations must agree to structure the program to avoid any perception of White Pine sponsorship of the instruction.
- Adult sponsors of participating organizations may not recruit potential participants on campus. Recruitment shall not involve expenditure of time or money to the School.
- Communication with participants must take place without access to School communication systems.
- No credit will be awarded for religious instruction which takes place during the released time program, nor will the student's permanent record indicate participation in a released time program.
- The religious organization will draft a proposed agreement and send it to the Administrator.

Implementation of Released Time Program

After a signed agreement has been filed in the Administrator's Office, a representative of the religious organization may contact the School. The following must be met:

- The release must be able to be scheduled at a time when there is no conflict with the student's academic program. The School is not obligated to adjust the schedules of other students to accommodate a released-time program's needs.
- The release must take place on a regular basis at a set time.

- The School shall not assume any costs related to the program. This prohibition includes costs of application forms, permission slips, distribution of notices, and transportation.
- Instruction must take place off School premises. The Board will not rent or donate School facilities for released-time religious instruction.
- The School has the option to designate the periods during the day when students may be released without conflict with the academic program. However, restrictions on release time for religious instruction may not be more stringent than those for any other release time program.

Modification or Termination of Released Time Agreements

Agreements between White Pine Charter School and providers of programs to release students for religious instruction will remain in effect until terminated by either party. Changes to the terms of the agreement will be in writing and endorsed by both parties.

Parents will be notified by the School if the released time program is terminated while parent permission slips are still in effect. Parents may withdraw permission at any time by signing a written revocation of permission.