

Public Activities Involving Staff or Students**EXCUSES FROM SCHOOL FOR NONSCHOOL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING GROUPS OF STUDENTS**

The Director, Department of Attendance Services, is responsible for determining when groups of students may be excused from school for an out-of-school activity. Organizations planning activities involving students and requesting their release from school during the regular school day should be informed of this regulation. These requests are to be cleared through the Director, Department of Attendance Services. Schools must be uniform in following this regulation. If any principal receives a request of this type, he/she should call the Director, Department of Attendance Services for clarification.

The attorneys for The School Board of Dade County, Florida have advised that it is illegal for students to be excused from school for the purpose of participating in mass religious instruction. If this has been a problem at any school, it is suggested that the principal confer with the ministers, rabbis, and priests in the school community to assist them in planning these activities at a time that will not conflict with regular school hours. (See Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.07.)

Students shall receive a permissible excuse for a school absence necessitated by the observance of a religious holiday when such observance, as is required, cannot be made outside the hours when school is in session.

In establishing classroom test schedules, teachers, wherever feasible in terms of course objectives, should avoid scheduling tests or other evaluation activities during religious holidays on which students may be granted permissible excuses for the observance of the holiday. Students whose absences are considered to be permissible due to a religious holiday, are to be permitted to make up all school work missed.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 232.0225 F.S.

History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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