

Cottonwood Joint School District No. 242

INSTRUCTION

2355

Release Time

For students in grades kindergarten through 12, the District will allow release time.

Upon application, students in grades 9 through 12 may be excused from school provided that no student will be excused in excess of five periods in a school week or 165 hours in any given school year. The District shall maintain a record of each students' daily schedule that indicates when a student has scheduled release time.

The Board shall, in its sole discretion, determine release time(s). Any release time activities shall be voluntary.

No student will be permitted to attend release time programs except upon written request from a parent/guardian filed with the school principal. Such written request will become a part of the student's permanent record.

Release time shall not interfere with the scheduling of classes, activities, and programs of public schools. No credit shall be given for completion of courses during release time for religious purposes. Credit may be granted for other purposes, at the discretion of the Board. Release time activities and registration for release time programs shall not occur on school property. The schools shall not include the schedules of classes for released time programs in class registration materials. Registration for released time classes must be done on forms furnished by the group or institution offering the program, not by the District. Teachers of released time classes are not to be considered members of the school faculty and should not be asked to participate as faculty members in any school functions or to assume responsibilities for operation of any part of the school program. It is the responsibility of the District to ensure that no District property, public funds, or other public resources are used in any way in the operation of these programs.

The District is not responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of a student participating in a release time program nor will the District be liable for acts, injuries, or events occurring while:

1. A student is being transported to and from release time programs; or
2. While a student participates in release time programs.

The District shall not be responsible for maintaining records of attendance for release time activities.

Legal Reference: Article IX, § 6 Idaho Constitution – Religious Test and Teaching in School Prohibited
I.C. § 33-519 Release for Religious Instruction

I.C. § 33-1603 Sectarian Instruction Forbidden
IDAPA 08.02.02.220 Release Time Program for Elementary and
Secondary Schools

Policy History:

Adopted on: April 18, 2016

Revised on: