



Religious Expression Policy

The Governing Authority of Legacy Academy of Excellence has adopted a policy favoring the understanding of religions by the students of this District and the contributions religions have made to the advancement of civilization. The Governing Authority accommodates the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of individual students regarding all examinations or other academic requirements and absences for reasons of faith, religious or spiritual belief systems. The following outlines the policy and procedures:

The policy shall permit a student in any of grades kindergarten through twelve to be absent for up to three religious expression days each school year, to take holidays for reasons of faith, religious or spiritual belief systems, or participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or other religious or spiritual organization. The school shall not impose an academic penalty as a result of a student being absent as permitted in the policy. The policy shall also permit students to participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities on days in which the student was otherwise absent for a religious expression day.

The school will be responsible for working with all families to provide alternative accommodation with regard to examinations and other academic requirements missed due to an absence per this policy. The following is a non-exhaustive list of major religious holidays, festivals, and observances, including but not limited to Eid, Good Friday, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Passover. Excused absences for these occasions shall not be unreasonably withheld or denied.

The school principal shall approve not more than three written requests per school year from a student's parent or guardian for an excused absence under this policy. The school principal shall approve such requests without inquiry into the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system. However, the school principal may verify a request received according to section A of the ORC 3320.04 by contacting the parent or guardian whose signature appears on the request. If a parent or guardian disputes having signed such a request, the school principal may deny the request. Upon approval of a request that satisfies division (B)(1) ORC 3320.04 a school principal 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.

This policy will require annual adoption and will be posted on the school's website.

All questions, complaints and grievance with the implementation of this policy should be sent to LAE@legacy1870.com.