511 Harrington Highway
Eden, North Carolina 27288

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS
Religious Exemption or Released Time Religious Instruction

Yearly Submission Required

Exemption -Please read Rockingham County Schools' Board Policy 3510: Religious-Based Exemptions From School Programs carefully. This policy allows for a student, parent, or guardian to petition to exempt the student from participation in a specific classroom discussion, activity or assigned reading that the student, parent, or guardian believes would impose a substantial burden on the student's religious beliefs or invade the student's privacy by calling attention to the student's religion. Any request should be submitted to the superintendent's designee (school administrator)with the following guidelines:

1. The request must be in writing;
2. The request must specify the discussion, activity, or reading and explain how it would impose a substantial burden on the student's religious beliefs or invade the student's privacy by calling attention to the student's religion; and
3. The request may suggest a proposed alternate activity or study.

The designee will review the request in accordance with constitutional any statutory standards and shall accommodate the request as required by law. If the accommodation is not required by law, the principal may choose to accommodate such a request after the consideration of factors, such as the interest of the child, the impact on the other students, and the availability of alternate activities or materials. An appeal of the decision may be made through the student grievance procedures.

Released Time Religious Instruction (RTRI) -The principal shall excuse students from school to attend released time religious instruction. Religious instruction means religious instruction offered by a private entity during the school day. RTRI is not a part of the school system's educational program or activities and is neither sponsored, supervised, nor controlled by the board. No academic credit will be awarded for a student's participation in RTRI. The school system will not expend state or local funds, excluding any cost of administering the policy, to facilitate a student's attending RTRI..

1. Participation in RTRI is voluntary and may only occur upon the written consent of the student's parents or guardian.
2. Before participating, the student's parent or guardian must provide the principal with a signed copy of the school's consent form. By signing the form, parents and guardians acknowledge they are responsible for arranging for transportation to go to and from the location where the RTRI will occur. RTRI by private entities will not be provided on school property.
3. Participants may only participate in one hour of RTRI per week. RTRI will not be permitted during: the core classes of math, science, social studies or English Language Arts; during state required tests, screenings, or other assessments; or state-required remedial instruction, interventions or retesting.
4. The student's parent or guardian must provide the principal with written documentation affirming the student attended religious instruction for each time the student is requesting

an excused absence. The student is responsible for all missed school work.

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Religious Exemption or Released Time Religious Instruction Form

School_____

Student Name: _____Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Please circle your request

Religious Exemption Request: I am requesting a religious exemption from the following discussion, activity, or reading activity based on the following: Please explain how it would impose a substantial burden on the student's religious beliefs or invade the student's privacy.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Released Time Religious Instruction (RTRI) Request: Please check the following boxes to your understanding of the policy around RTRI.

☐ I understand that I am responsible for my child's transportation to and from the lesson.

☐ I understand that my child will not be allowed to miss core classes of math, science, social studies or English Language Arts; during state required tests, screenings, or other assessments; or state-required remedial instruction, interventions or retesting in order to participate in RTRI.

☐ I understand that I must provide the principal with written documentation affirming my child has attended the religious instruction each time we are requesting an excused absence.

☐ I understand that my child is responsible for all missed school work.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____