



Superintendent's Circular

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RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

This circular will remain in effect unless rescinded or suspended by a subsequent version.

It is the policy of the Boston Public Schools to make reasonable efforts to accommodate the religious beliefs of students and staff. State and federal laws also mandate such reasonable accommodations.

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 151C, Section 2B reads, in pertinent part, as follows:

“Any student in an educational or vocational training institution, other than a religious or denominational educational or vocational training institution, who is unable, because of [their] religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on a particular day shall be excused from any such examination or study or work requirement, and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up such examination, study, or work requirement which [they] may have missed because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however, that such makeup examination or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to the said student such opportunity. No adverse

or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of [their] availing [themselves] of the provisions of this section.”

To accommodate the religious beliefs of students, all who observe any holiday because of religious beliefs should be marked “constructively present” upon submitting a valid note from a parent or guardian (see Circular ACA-18). In addition, teachers should refrain from giving tests on these religious holidays and allow sufficient time for these students to make up their work before administering tests.

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