



LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Lincoln, Massachusetts

DRAFT

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

A student may not be penalized for his/her observance of a religious holiday. Any student who is absent because of religious or cultural observances shall be provided the time and the opportunity to make up missed work, activities, and/or assessments. It is expected that students will meet with their teacher(s) in advance of a planned absence or at least upon the first day of their return to agree mutually upon a due date for missed work. In no case shall the timeframe to make up missed work be less than a week. Teachers will be responsible for providing students with missed materials relative to future assessment.

Similarly, families will be encouraged and invited to notify coaches, advisors, club leaders, etc. of student absences for religious or cultural observances. Students will not be penalized (e.g. held out of post absence participation) in their extra-curricular activities (e.g. sports, theater, clubs, etc.) for such absences.

Open and timely communication between students, families, and educators shall ensure that the opportunity to make up work does not place an unreasonable burden upon any of the parties.

Ref. Bedford IMDA, Concord-Carlisle IMDA, Westford, Belmont, Wayland

| Adopted at School Committee Meeting of _____

Bedford File: IMDA - RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL HOLIDAYS POLICY *

- Any student who is absent due to a religious or major cultural holiday observance, will, upon notification by the parent, have his or her absence recorded as exempt.
- Any student who is unable, because of religious and/or cultural beliefs, to attend class shall be provided with the time (no less than one week) and the opportunity to make up missed work and/or assessments. Open and timely communication between students, families and teachers shall ensure that the opportunity to make up work/assessments does not place an unreasonable burden upon any of the parties.

*(2-year pilot)

Approved May 9, 2017

Concord-Carlisle

File: IMDA - ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

The Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Districts are religiously and culturally diverse communities. In recognition of this diversity and in keeping with the districts' core value of a "caring and empathic community," it is the intent of the school districts to be aware of and to respect the religious and cultural observances of its students, families and staff.

Toward that end, any student who is absent due to a religious or cultural observance will, upon notification by the parent or guardian, have his or her absence excused. Families will be encouraged and invited to notify the school site of such plans at the start of the school year.

The Districts expect that classroom teachers will plan curriculum, major assignments, and assessments based on their awareness of their students' attendance plans recognizing the impact of significant absences on the educational process.

Any student who is absent because of religious or cultural observances shall be provided the time and the opportunity to make up missed work, activities, and/or assessments. It is expected that students will meet with their teacher(s) in advance of a planned absence or at least upon the first day of their return to agree mutually upon a due date for missed work. In no case shall the timeframe to make up missed work be less than a week. Teachers will be responsible for providing students with missed materials relative to future assessment.

Similarly, families will be encouraged and invited to notify coaches, advisors, club leaders, etc. of student absences for religious or cultural observances. Students will not be penalized (e.g. held out of post absence participation) in their extra-curricular activities (e.g. sports, theater, clubs, etc.) for such absences.

Open and timely communication between students, families, and educators shall ensure that the opportunity to make up work does not place an unreasonable burden upon any of the parties.

Annually, the Districts will provide notification of this policy and a list of religious and cultural observances and their dates for the current academic year to all educators.

Approved: December 12, 2017

Westford

Religious Holiday Observance – A student may not be penalized for his/her observance of a religious holiday. The student is expected to complete work impacted by the religious observance within one week of the holiday. Any missed tests or quizzes shall be taken within a week of the missed day, at a time mutually agreeable to the teacher and the student. At the elementary and middle school, it may be necessary to involve the student's parent/guardian for transportation consideration. Staff and teachers shall provide students with class notes or syllabus, and any assignments prior to the absence if requested and if available. Otherwise these items shall be provided upon return from a religious holiday.

Sports and Extracurricular Activities – Students shall not be penalized because they are unable to participate in a sporting event, practice, try-outs or any other extra-curricular activity due to their observance of a religious holiday.

Belmont

While the schools are not closed for observance of religious holidays, it is the intention of the District to respect the religious and cultural days that are significant to the students, families, and staff. The following list includes many of these holidays celebrated during the 2018-2019 school year, that may require a student to be absent from school. Students who miss schoolwork because of an excused absence, including absence for religious observance, should not be expected to complete homework, study for tests or do other school work during their absence. They shall be given the opportunity to complete assignments and tests within a reasonable time, based on the circumstances. These absences should be managed in the same manner as absences for other excused reasons, including informing the school of the absence, talking with teachers about the absence, missed work, etc.

Wayland

RELIGIOUS POLICY ON HOLD The Wayland Public Schools recognize the role of public schools in educating all of its students on each and every school day. We believe that teachers must seek to maximize instruction for all students who are present on any given school day. We believe that administrators, teachers, coaches and advisors, and all others dealing with children and families in the Wayland Public Schools, should be sensitive to the participation of students in their own religious observance. There are some practical guidelines that can help alleviate some of the inevitable tension between public and private commitments. 1. On nights of significant religious holidays, the school will try not to schedule one-time events or meetings

which will automatically mean that some students/parents will be unable to attend. 2. On nights of significant religious holidays there is obviously a dilemma about homework, quiz and test preparation. Major tests will not be given on certain designated days (see each year's school calendar) but homework and quizzes should proceed as usual. Students unprepared on a given school day because of a holiday the previous day or evening may bring a note from home and make up the work in the normal amount of time. 3. Conflicts which occur because of after school and weekend religious instruction are not reasons for altering public school work load or events. The intent of this policy is to keep separate the important role of public school education and private religious observance. We seek a reasonable balance which prevents the most obvious scheduling conflicts and still protects our schools' mission to provide a full education experience each school day. Adopted: 1/31/94 SOURCE: Wayland