

General Controlling Provisions. The United States Supreme Court has upheld the release of students during the school day for the purpose of attending religious programs and/or observations. These programs, however, cannot be endorsed, encouraged, sponsored or by any means subsidized by a public school corporation.

Indiana Code Authorizing Release Time for Religious Education

IC 20-33-2-19

Attendance; public school children; religious instruction

Sec. 19.

(a) When the parent of a student who is enrolled in a public school makes a written request, the principal may allow the student to attend a school for religious instruction that is conducted by a church, an association of churches, or an association that is organized for religious instruction and incorporated under Indiana law.

(b) If a principal grants permission under subsection (a), the principal shall specify a period or periods, not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) minutes in total in any week, for the student to receive religious instruction. The permission is valid only for the year in which it is granted. Decisions made by a principal under this section may be reviewed by the superintendent.

(c) A school for religious instruction that receives students under this section:

(1) shall maintain attendance records and allow inspection of these records by attendance officers; and

(2) may not be supported, in whole or in part, by public funds.

(d) A student who attends a school for religious instruction under this section shall receive the same attendance credit that the student would receive for attendance in the public schools for the same length of time.

As added by P.L.1-2005, SEC.17.