

## ALSDE Model Alabama Released Time Credit Act Policy

### Section 1: Alabama Released Time Credit Act.

Pursuant to the Alabama Released Time Credit Act, school districts may offer released time classes and, in grades where credit is earned, award students elective credit for classes taken during the school day in released time programs.

“Released time” is defined by the Act as a period of time *during the school day* when a student is allowed to participate in an elective course in religious instruction, conducted *off school district property*, by a private entity.

### Section 2: Student Participation and Earned Credits

(a) A student may participate in released time elective courses if all requirements of the LEA’s Released Time Program *and* all the following are satisfied:

- (1) The parent or guardian of the student gives written consent.
- (2) The sponsoring entity maintains attendance records and makes them available to the public school the student attends.
- (3) The Sponsoring entity makes provisions for and assumes liability for the student who is excused for released time.
- (4) No public funds are expended other than de minimis administrative costs.
- (5) No public school personnel are involved in providing the religious instruction.

(b) In districts who offer Released Time Programs, elective course credit may be earned in accordance with normal procedures of awarding elective credits.

### Section 3. Attendance

(a) No student may be released from a required core curriculum class to attend released time.

(b) No student may be released more than six (6) hours per week to attend released time.

(c) Student attendance in released time shall be calculated as part of the school day and subject to all normal attendance rules.

### Section 4. Transportation

Transportation to and from the place of released time, including transportation for any student with disabilities, is the complete responsibility of the sponsoring private entity, parent, guardian, or student and may not be arranged, coordinated, or provided for by public school personnel.

Legal Reference: *Ala. Act No. 2019-218*  
*Last updated 10/28/2019*