



## Superintendent's Circular

School Year 2011-2012

**NUMBER:**  
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**DATE:**  
September 1, 2011

### RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

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 law 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 his 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 he 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 his availing himself of the provisions of this section.”

In order 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. 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.

For more information about this circular, contact:

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Carol R. Johnson, Superintendent