Religious Holidays – Scheduling Tests, Major School Activities

Scheduling major tests, exams, and major school activities must reflect sensitivity to the religious beliefs and practices of all students. Staff members should be notified at the beginning of each year to avoid scheduling tests, exams, and other major annual school activities such as concerts and award ceremonies. Sports activities are scheduled and controlled by the Virginia High School League and are not subject to this regulation, but students can be exempt from participating.

Some religious holidays are tied to the lunar calendar or to cultural patterns that vary within each religious community. Religions such as Bahá’í, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism are examples of lunar calendar observances wherein holidays begin at sunset the day before the holiday and end at sunset the final day of the holiday.

Any student who is absent from school because of a religious holiday shall be marked excused and allowed to make up work missed within a reasonable timeframe. The dates of these holidays shall be listed in an annual notice.

Principals and Level Associate Superintendents (or designee) are responsible for implementing and monitoring this policy.

This policy and any related regulations shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.