

Parent Guide: How to Request Religious Accommodation in Public Schools

Why This Matters

In Canada, students have the right to practice their faith at school. The **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Section 2a)** guarantees *freedom of religion and conscience*. School boards and provincial human rights codes require schools to provide **reasonable religious accommodations**.

When to Use the Form

Use this form whenever your child needs adjustments at school to practice their faith. Common examples for Muslim students include:

- **Prayer:** Space and time for daily prayers or Jumu'ah (Friday prayer).
- **Fasting (Ramadan):** Flexible scheduling for physical education, alternative space during lunch.
- **Religious Holidays:** Excused absences for Eid with no penalties.
- **Religious Dress:** Wearing hijab, kufi, modest gym/swim clothing.
- **Curriculum Participation:** Requesting an alternative assignment if a class activity conflicts with religious beliefs.

How to Fill Out the Form

1. **Student Information** – Write your child's name, grade, and your contact info.
2. **Accommodation Request** – Check the box that matches your need. Fill out one request form for **each** religious accommodation request. Write a short description (e.g., "My child will be fasting during Ramadan and may need an alternate space during lunch.").

3. **Supporting Information** – Optional. You may briefly explain the religious basis (e.g., “Our faith requires daily prayers at specific times.”).
4. **Proposed Solution** – Suggest how the school can help (e.g., “Allow prayer in the library at 1:30 PM”).
5. **Signatures** – Sign and date. Keep a copy for your records.

Tips for Parents

- Submit the form early (e.g., before Ramadan, before Eid, or at the start of the school year).
- Be clear and respectful when describing the request.
- Follow up with your child’s teacher or the school office to confirm arrangements.
- Remember: schools must accommodate unless it causes *undue hardship*.

Sample Wording You Can Use

- “As a Muslim family, we request that our child be excused from class to perform daily prayers at the appropriate time.”
- “We respectfully request Eid to be recognized as a religious holiday absence.”
- “We ask for modest clothing to be permitted in gym class.”

Final Reminder

Requesting accommodation is your child’s **right**, not a favour. Schools are expected to work with families in good faith. Using this form helps ensure your request is **clear, documented, and respected**.

Date: _____

Religious Accommodation Request Form

Section A: Student Information

- Student Name: _____
 - Grade / Class: _____
 - Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____
 - Contact Information: _____
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Section B: Accommodation Request

1. Type of Accommodation Requested:

- ☐ Prayer (daily, Friday, special occasions)
- ☐ Religious Holidays/Observances (e.g., Eid)
- ☐ Fasting (e.g., Ramadan accommodations, meal adjustments)
- ☐ Religious Dress/Attire (e.g., hijab, kufi, modest gym wear)
- ☐ Curriculum Participation (alternative assignments, reading, activities)
- ☐ Other: _____

2. Description of Request:

(Please describe the accommodation being requested and how it relates to the student's sincerely held religious beliefs or practices.)

Section C: Supporting Information

• Relevant Religious Belief/Practice:

(Optional – Parents may briefly explain the basis of the request, referencing religious practice if desired.)

- **Proposed Solution / Adjustment:**

(If you have suggestions for how the school can meet this need, please describe.)

Section D: Agreement & Signatures

We respectfully request that the school provide reasonable accommodation for the above religious need(s), consistent with the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Section 2a: Freedom of Conscience and Religion)** and applicable school board and provincial human rights policies.

We affirm that this request is made in good faith and understand that the school will work with us to identify reasonable solutions that do not cause undue hardship.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Student Signature (if applicable): _____ **Date:** _____

Section E: School Use Only

- **Date Received:** _____

- **Reviewed By:** _____

- **Decision / Notes:**

Administrator Signature: _____ **Date:** _____