



## Bible Released Time Parent/Guardian Consent Form

Bible Released Time is program that allows public school students and their guardians to include biblical instruction, along with good morals, in their education. Students who have a signed permission form or letter from their legal guardian are excused from school once a month to attend a one-hour program held at a nearby church or facility.

### REQUEST FORM FOR BIBLE RELEASED TIME CLASS

Dear Principal,

I hereby request that my child, \_\_\_\_\_, be released from

*(PLEASE PRINT NEATLY CHILD'S FIRST & LAST NAME)*

school once a month for one hour to attend the Bible Released Time Program held at \_\_\_\_\_ Church under the supervision of the LEAD Project and the Elgin Children's Foundation. I understand that I may **NOT** hold \_\_\_\_\_ **School**, \_\_\_\_\_ **County Schools**, the \_\_\_\_\_ **County School Board**, any employees of the above stated entities, and/or the State of **Tennessee** liable for my child participating in the Bible Released Time class. Although I will be asked to complete an updated form each year, my consent has no expiration date unless I notify the school.

Student's School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(MONTH/DAY/YEAR)*

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any other information you feel we should know concerning your child's health? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINT** Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you DO NOT want your child to participate in promotional materials.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE**



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with great excitement that the LEAD Project is offering Bible Released Time classes for elementary, middle, and high school students. The LEAD Project is a ministry of Children’s Bible Ministries, which partners with the Elgin Children’s Foundation and other ministries and churches to offer Bible Released Time classes for ALL students, 2nd grade—12th grade.

**What is Bible Released Time?**

Bible Released Time is an exciting opportunity for students to learn about the Bible during their school day! Nationwide, thousands of students attend Bible Released Time programs each year following these guidelines:

- Must have parental permission
- Must be off campus
- Cannot use school funds

**Is it legal?**

**YES!** It was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Zorach vs. Clauson*. Also, it is approved and regulated by Tennessee State Law—see attachment: *HB2542 BY POWERS SB 2473 BY YEAGER, BILL SUMMARY*.

**Who can attend?**

If a parent or guardian requests that their child be released to attend a Bible Released Time program, it is required by law that the student be excused and not be counted absent. Students who bring a signed permission form to school or a letter from their parent or guardian will be released from school once a month to attend a one-hour program held off-campus.

**Where will class be held?**

Students will ride a bus to a nearby church or facility within 5 miles of the school and be chaperoned by adults who will accompany the students from the time they leave school until they return.

- \_\_\_\_\_ BRT classes will be held at \_\_\_\_\_ Church.

**What will they be doing in the class?**

The class will consist of a fun time for students as they learn from God’s Word through a creatively presented Bible lesson. Students will dig deeper into the Scriptures and learn to answer hard questions about what they believe and why.

**Will students be safe?**

Safety is a top priority! All volunteers must pass a background check. Student information is only shared with the school and the hosting organization.

**3 John 1:4**

**I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth.**

For more information about Bible Released Time or if you would like to know how to become a volunteer, feel free to call \_\_\_\_\_. You may also call this number if your child has a health issue for which we need to be aware. I look forward to hearing from you!

In His Service,



## **HB2542 BY POWERS SB 2473 BY YAGER BILL SUMMARY**

Local Education Agencies – As introduced, requires a public school to excuse a student from school to attend a released time course if requested by the student’s parent or legal guardian even if the local board of education has not adopted a policy on released time courses; authorizes local boards of education to transport students attending a released time course to and from the place of instruction if the entity providing the instruction reimburses the LEA for the services. – Amends TCA Title 49.

Present law authorizes local boards of education to adopt a policy that excuses a student from school to attend a released time course in religious moral instruction for no more than one class period per school day. This bill requires public schools to excuse a student from school to attend a released time course in religious moral instruction for one hour per school day, regardless of whether the local board of education has adopted a policy, upon the request of a student’s parent or legal guardian. The same requirements that apply to released time course attendance in LEAs that have adopted a policy will apply to students who are excused to attend a released time course under this bill.

Under present law, any transportation to and from the place of instruction for a released time course, including transportation for students with disabilities, is the responsibility of the independent entity that teaches the course, parent, legal guardian, or student. This bill authorizes LEAs to provide school transportation services for students attending a released time course with transportation to and from the place of instruction if the independent entity that teaches the course reimburses the LEA for the cost of providing the transportation.

Official Bill: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/111/Bill/SB2473.pdf>