



AMERICAN MUSLIM ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 15, 2024

Re: Accommodations for Muslim Students' Adherence to Daily and Friday Prayers

To whom it may concern,

As you may be aware, Muslim students adhere to the five daily prayers mandated by their Islamic faith. Given the timing of these prayers, it is common for students to find themselves in school during the periods designated for prayer, particularly the Dhuhr prayer which falls within school hours. Additionally, depending on the duration of the school day and daylight savings time, the Asr prayer may also coincide with school hours.

This letter serves as a notice that as a part of their First Amendment rights to freedom of religion, students must be allowed to practice their faith without hindrance. To facilitate this, following accommodations should be made:

- **Access to Facilities:** Students should be granted access to bathroom facilities for pre-prayer ablution purposes. These facilities can be the same as those used by students for regular purposes.
- **Designated Prayer Space:** A private and quiet space within the school campus should be allocated to students for the completion of their daily obligatory prayers. This space should allow for uninterrupted prayer and subsequent return to class. It is anticipated that the duration of each prayer session will be approximately 7 minutes.
- **Time Allotment:** Students must be allotted sufficient time to travel to and from class to the designated prayer space, complete ablution, and perform the prayer itself. A time allowance of approximately 7-10 minutes should be considered.
- **Friday Congregational Services:** In the event of a substantial Muslim population within the school, students may wish to organize Friday congregational services (Jumm'ah) during lunchtime. Alternatively, for those unable to conduct such services on-site, provision should be made for students to attend local mosques for Friday prayers and return to school thereafter.

By implementing these accommodations, we can ensure that the religious rights of our Muslim students are respected without compromising their educational experience. Moreover, open communication and collaboration between students, families, and the school administration will be instrumental in addressing any concerns or logistical challenges that may arise.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding these proposals, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at. I am more than willing to discuss this matter further and work towards a mutually beneficial solution.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and I look forward to your cooperation in ensuring an inclusive and accommodating environment for all students.

Sincerely,

Sabina Mohyuddin
Executive Director