

POLICY

2018

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1 of 1

INSTRUCTION

SUBJECT: CURRICULUM AREAS IN CONFLICT WITH RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

The Board of Education recognizes the school district's responsibility to teach students about religion and the role of religion as a vital force in the development of civilizations. It further acknowledges the need for schools to foster a respect for religions and religious beliefs. Every student should fully understand the principle of religious freedom that is part of this country's heritage.

The Board encourages factual and objective teaching about religion. Instructional programs will be encouraged that: (1) focus on the role that religion has played in history or in the development of a society or culture, and (2) educate students about the principle of religious liberty as one of the central elements of freedom and democracy.

Activities related to the observance of religious holidays will be permitted to the extent that they are conducted in an unbiased and objective manner. Activities should be multicultural in nature.

The display of religious objects or symbols is permitted when they are used as a teaching aid or resource to provide examples of cultural or religious heritage. Otherwise, such displays are prohibited.

Students shall be given the option to be excused from participating in those parts of a program or curriculum involving a religious theme which conflicts with their own religious beliefs. Alternatives may be provided that are of instructional value.

Education Law Section 3204(5)

Adopted: 12/13/18