

Instruction

Separation of Church and State

In accordance with the mandate of the Constitution of the United States prohibiting the establishment of religion it is the policy of this Board that the public schools will, at all times and in all ways, be neutral in matters of religion. This means that the public schools:

1. Will assume no role or responsibility for the religious training of any student; and
2. Will in no way become involved in the religious belief, disbelief or doubt of any student.

This requirement of neutrality need not preclude nor hinder the public schools in fulfilling their responsibility to educate students to be tolerant and respectful of religious diversity. The district also recognizes that one of its educational responsibilities is to advance the students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religion has played in the social, cultural, and historical development of civilization.

Therefore, the district will approach religion from an objective, curriculum-related perspective, encouraging all students and staff members to be aware of the diversity of beliefs and respectful of each other's religious and/or non-religious views. In that spirit of respect, students and staff members may be excused from participating in activities that are contrary to religious beliefs unless there are clear issues of compelling public interest that would prevent it.

The district's calendar should be prepared to minimize conflicts with religious holidays of all faiths. Examinations or important school events will not be scheduled on days when students may be absent for religious observances.