

RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the following for the recognition of religious beliefs and customs in district schools:

1. The approach to religion is academic and not devotional
2. The goal is for student awareness of religion in historical and contemporary societies
3. The students may not be pressed to accept any one religion
4. The school may include the study of religion as part of the history-social science curriculum, but the practice of religions may not be sponsored
5. The students may be exposed to and educated about a diversity of religious views and beliefs, but a particular view or belief may not be imposed, nor may any one religion be promoted or denigrated

Staff shall make every effort to schedule one-time events, such as examinations, district-sponsored trips, special laboratories, picture-taking days, and class parties, to minimize conflicts with major religious holidays of all faiths such that no one faith is disproportionately impacted.

Programs and Exhibits

When district programs and exhibits are in any way related to instruction about religion or religious holidays, the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. The principal or designee shall ensure that district-sponsored programs are presented in an objective manner, consistent with the accompanying Board policy
2. The principal or designee shall be kept informed of the program's development
3. Program or exhibit planners shall take into consideration the diverse religious faiths represented in the community, student body, and staff

Opt-Outs

When a parent/guardian submits a written request to opt the parent's/guardian's student out of instruction based on religious beliefs, customs, or practices, the request shall include the following:

1. The specific instructional content of which the student should be opted out

2. The specific religious belief(s), custom(s), and/or practice(s) with which the specific instructional content substantially interferes
3. How the specific instructional content substantially interferes with the specific religious belief(s), custom(s), and/or practice(s), including any grade level or individual student characteristics relevant to the opt-out request

As necessary, the Superintendent or designee may work with district legal counsel to evaluate each opt-out request and determine whether it shall be granted.