

RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS**A. Purpose and Scope**

The Governing Board desires to have specific procedures regarding the recognition of religious beliefs and customs.

B. General

Students may be excused from any part of health, family life or sex education which conflicts with the religious training, beliefs, or personal moral convictions of the parent/guardian or student. (Education Code 51240).

Upon written request of the parent/guardian, a student shall be excused from any part of health, family life or sex education which conflicts with the religious training, beliefs, or personal moral convictions of the parent/guardian or student. (Education Code 51240).

When school 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 school-sponsored programs are not, or do not have the effect of being, religiously oriented or a religious celebration.
2. The principal or designee shall participate in planning the program or exhibit and shall be kept informed of its development.
3. Program or exhibit planners shall take into consideration the diverse religious faiths represented in the community, student body and staff.
4. Students and staff whose beliefs prohibit their participation in a program shall be excused without penalty, and an alternate activity shall be provided for any such students.

C. Forms Used and Additional References Procedures

None

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CUSTOMS (Continued)**

D. Procedures

To be excused from an activity, the parent/guardian shall submit a letter requesting that their child be excused from participation in any part of health, family life or sex education which conflicts with the religious training, beliefs, or personal moral convictions of the parent/guardian or student. (Education Code 51240).

Staff shall make every effort to avoid scheduling on established religious holidays:

- a. Examinations
- b. School-sponsored trips
- c. Special laboratories
- d. Picture-taking days
- e. Class parties

E. Reports Required

None

F. Record Retention

None

G. Responsible Administrative Unit

Educational Services

H. Approved By The Administrative Division

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services