

Board Policy I-11: Religion in the Curriculum



REFERENCES

[I-11: Administrative Procedures, Religion in the Curriculum](#)

[Utah Code Ann. §53G-10-202, Maintaining Constitutional Freedom in the Public Schools](#)

[Utah Code Ann. §53G-10-205, Waivers of Participation](#)

[Utah Code Ann. §53G-10-203, Expressions of Belief - Discretionary Time](#)

[Utah Code Ann. §53G-10-304, Instruction on the Flag of the United States of America](#)

[Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools](#)

THE POLICY

The Salt Lake City School District Board of Education recognizes, protects, and accommodates the rights of religious practice and expression guaranteed by state and federal laws, and by the constitutions of the United States and Utah.

The purpose of this policy is to protect and accommodate the rights of conscience and exercise of religious freedom of district students and parents in accordance with all applicable laws. The Constitution of Utah prohibits district employees while acting in their official capacities from promoting or disparaging any religious belief or non-belief. Instead, the district encourages all students and employees to have an appreciation for and tolerance of each other's views. Given the unique relationship between students and school personnel, school personnel must be particularly careful to remain neutral in matters relating to religion, while striving to accommodate the religious beliefs and practices, and the freedom of conscience of district students and their parents.

The proper role of religion in the curriculum of public schools is in its educational value and not in religious endorsement. To that end, the district supports the inclusion of religious music, art, drama, and literature in a school's curriculum so long as the inclusion of such material is intrinsic to the learning experience and is presented in an objective manner without sectarian indoctrination. In accordance with state law, parents, legal guardians, or students may request to be excused or refrain from participating in an aspect of school that they feel infringes upon their rights of conscience or religious freedom.

The district has set forth its specific processes for implementing this board policy through the accompanying [administrative procedures](#).

No district employee or student shall be subjected to discrimination in employment or any district program or activity on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. The district is committed to providing equal access and equal opportunity in its programs, services and employment including its policies, complaint processes, program accessibility, district facility use, accommodations and other Equal Employment Opportunity matters. The district also provides equal access to district facilities for all youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United State Codes, including scouting groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation: Tina Hatch, Compliance and Investigations/Title IX Coordinator, 406 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, (801) 578-8388. You may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, Denver, CO, (303) 844-5695.