

In recognition of the constitutional rights of students to the free exercise of religion and to have their schools free from sectarian control or influence, the District shall neither promote or disparage religion nor interfere with the free exercise of religion. Staff members and students are encouraged and expected to create an atmosphere in the schools where the diverse beliefs of all students may be accommodated in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. The Board must give primary credence to the United States and Washington State constitutions, state law and the decisions made by the respective courts when establishing guidelines for making decisions regarding religious-related activities and practices. The Board further accepts the declaration of the State Board of Education that “all students...possess the constitutional right to the free exercise of religion and to have their schools free from sectarian control or influence.”

The Superintendent/designee will establish procedures to preserve the rights of all students within the framework of the respective constitutions.

Cross Reference:	Board Policy 2153	Noncurriculum-related Student Groups
	Board Policy 3122	Student Absences
	Board Policy 3220	Freedom of Expression
	Board Policy 3223	Freedom of Assembly
	Board Policy 3224	Student Dress
	Board Policy 4220	Complaints Regarding Staff or Program
	Board Policy 4237	Contests, Advertising and Promotions
	Board Policy 4235	Public Performances
	Board Policy 4260	Use of School Facilities
Legal References:	U.S. Constitution	First Amendment, Fourteenth Amendment
	Washington Constitution	Art. 1, § 11
	Washington Constitution	Art. 9, Sec. 4 and Art. 26
RCW	28A.600.025	Student Rights of Religious Expression-Duty of Superintendent of Public

WAC	392-400-227	Instruction to inform school Districts School District rules defining Students' religious rights
Adopted:	December 9, 1995	North Thurston School District Board of Directors
Amended:	April 1, 2003 January 5, 2009	
Reviewed:	October 20, 2009	North Thurston Public Schools Board of Directors