



## Central Islip Union Free School District

Board of Education & School District Policy Book

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Section	Section Title	Type
4000	Instruction	Local
Policy	Policy Title	
4821	Holiday Displays and Observances	

In accordance with federal and state constitutional church and state requirements, the Board of Education will neither advance nor inhibit religion. However, since religion has played a principal part in our nation's heritage, the Board recognizes how teaching about religion may, at times, be appropriate. The Board will not, in any case, allow religion to be taught in the context of encouraging children to adopt a particular faith or belief system during school hours.

The district may have holiday displays and celebrations when it can be demonstrated that there is cultural significance to the events and/or displays and when a reasonable observer would view such activities and/or displays as involving the teaching about religion. The Board will work to ensure that sensitivity is demonstrated to children of all faiths as well as to those who do not subscribe to any religion when themes of a religious nature are presented.

The Board will work to provide all students with a school environment which is respectful to their particular system of belief or non-belief and which does not place them in a position of feeling uncomfortable and made to conform to any other person's beliefs.

Adoption date: June 8, 2009

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#### Cross Reference:

5040, Prayer in the Schools

#### Reference:

*Altman v. Bedford CSD*, 245 F.3d 49 (2d Cir. 2001) ("Earth Day" celebrations did not impermissibly endorse religion where no religious ceremony was attached)

*Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. V. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290 (2000) (constitutionality of student-led prayers at interscholastic athletic activities)

*Lee v. Weissman*, 505 U.S. 577 (1992) (constitutionality of clergy-led prayers at graduation ceremonies)  
*Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602 (1971) (constitutional test to determine church-state issues)  
*Lynch v. Donnelly*, 465 U.S. 668 (1984) (constitutionality of holiday display)  
*County of Allegheny v. ACLU of Greater Pittsburgh Chapter*, 492 U.S. 573 (1989) (constitutionality of holiday display)  
*Florey v. Sioux Falls School District*, 619 F.2d 1311 (1980) (constitutionality of school observance of holidays)  
*Appeal of Cayot*, 42 EDR 97 (2002) (singing of "God Bless America" does not violate the Establishment Clause)  
*Appeal of Sebouhian*, 31 EDR 397 (1992) (resolution to change name from winter to Christmas concert indicated an unconstitutional religious purpose)  
*Appeal of Pasquale*, 30 EDR 361 (1991) (permission to adopt guidelines for the treatment of religious and cultural holidays in the instructional program)  
*Matter of Rosenbaum*, 28 EDR 138 (1988) (permissibility of religious music and art in schools)  
*Matter of Cromwell*, 72 EDR 116 (1951) (religious holidays in schools)