TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION

The Board of Education reaffirms the basic American tradition of separation of church and state. Such a policy is the logical outcome of the pluralistic nature of U.S. society.

This policy should not be construed to mean that the religious beliefs and customs of the churches of our country should be ignored. It is both desirable and proper that our students learn about the religious beliefs of all peoples if they are to be prepared for the world in which they are to become responsible citizens. The nature of sectarian beliefs, therefore, may be described and discussed in classrooms at all grade levels; but the public school's purpose is to encourage recognition and respect, not to instill belief.

The public schools should not ignore the most significant religious holidays of the major religions to which our citizens subscribe. These may be given appropriate recognition, but care should be taken to insure the stated goals of this program - to encourage recognition and respect rather than to instill belief.

Adoption date: November 22, 1993