

Instruction

RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS

AR 6141.2

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the following for the recognition of religious beliefs and customs in district schools:

1. The approach to religion is academic and not devotional
2. The goal is for student awareness of religion in historical and contemporary societies
3. The students may not be pressed to accept any one religion
4. The school may include the study of religion as part of the history-social science curriculum, but the practice of religions may not be sponsored
5. The students may be exposed to and educated about a diversity of religious views and beliefs, but a particular view or belief may not be imposed, nor may any one religion be promoted or denigrated

Staff shall make every effort to schedule one-time events, such as examinations, school-sponsored trips, special laboratories, picture-taking days, and class parties, to minimize conflicts with major religious holidays of all faiths such that no one faith is disproportionately impacted.

Programs and Exhibits

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 presented in an objective manner, consistent with Board policy.
2. The principal or designee shall be kept informed of the program's development.
3. Program or exhibit planners shall take into consideration the diverse religious faiths represented in the community, student body and staff.

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Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State

Ed. Code 38130-38139

Description

[Civic Center Act](#)

Ed. Code 46014

[Absences for religious purposes](#)

Ed. Code 51511

[Religious matters properly included in courses of study](#)

Ed. Code 51938

[Right of parent/guardian to excuse from sexual health instruction](#)

Federal

20 USC 4071-4074

Description

Equal Access Act

20 USC 6061

School prayer

20 USC 7904

School prayer

Management Resources

*California Department of Education
Publication*

Description

[Appendix F history social science framework for California public schools](#)

Court Decision

Florey v. Sioux Falls (1980) 619 F.2d 1311

Court Decision

Fellowship of Christian Athletes v. San Jose Unified School District Board of Education (2023) 82 F.4th 664

Court Decision

Kennedy v. Bremerton (2022) 142 S.Ct. 2407

Court Decision

Cole v. Oroville Union High School District (2000, 9th Cir.) 228 F.3d 1092

Court Decision

Lassonde v. Pleasanton Unified School District (2003, 9th Cir.) 320 F.3d 979

Court Decision

Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971) 403 U.S. 602

*U.S. Department of Education
Publication*

[Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, May 2023](#)

Website

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

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Website [California Department of Education](#)

Website [CSBA](#)

Website [U.S. Department of Education](#)

Cross References

Policy	Description
0410	<u>Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities</u>
0450	<u>Comprehensive Safety Plan</u>
0450	<u>Comprehensive Safety Plan</u>
1325	<u>Advertising And Promotion</u>
1330	<u>Use Of School Facilities</u>
1330	<u>Use Of School Facilities</u>
5113	<u>Absences And Excuses</u>
5113	<u>Absences And Excuses</u>
5121	<u>Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement</u>
5121	<u>Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement</u>
5127	<u>Graduation Ceremonies And Activities</u>
5132	<u>Dress And Grooming</u>
5132	<u>Dress And Grooming</u>
5141.31	<u>Immunizations</u>
5141.31	<u>Immunizations</u>
5145.2	<u>Freedom Of Speech/Expression</u>
5145.2	<u>Freedom Of Speech/Expression</u>
6111	<u>School Calendar</u>
6115	<u>Ceremonies And Observances</u>
6115	<u>Ceremonies And Observances</u>

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6142.8	<u>Comprehensive Health Education</u>
6142.8	<u>Comprehensive Health Education</u>
6142.93	<u>Science Instruction</u>
6142.94	<u>History-Social Science Instruction</u>
6143	<u>Courses Of Study</u>
6143	<u>Courses Of Study</u>
6144	<u>Controversial Issues</u>
6145.5	<u>Student Organizations And Equal Access</u>
6145.5	<u>Student Organizations And Equal Access</u>
6145.8	<u>Assemblies And Special Events</u>
6154	<u>Homework/Makeup Work</u>
6161.11	<u>Supplementary Instructional Materials</u>
6176	<u>Weekend/ Saturday Classes</u>

Regulation

Approved: January 23, 1996

Revised: 8/14; 5/24

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pasadena, California