



Book	Policy Manual
Section	2000 Program
Title	RELIGION IN THE CURRICULUM
Code	po2270
Status	Active
Adopted	October 21, 2013
Last Revised	July 15, 2019

2270 - **RELIGION IN THE CURRICULUM**

As a public entity, the District must comply with the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment requirement that the District neither establish religion in the schools nor prohibit students' free exercise of religion according to pertinent interpretation and application of those Constitutional provisions by the Courts. Accordingly, no Board of Education employee will promote religion in the classroom or in the District's curriculum, or compel or pressure any student to participate in devotional exercises. Displays of a religious character must conform with Policy 8800. Instructional activities shall not be permitted to advance or inhibit any particular religion or religion generally. Teachers shall forward requests for religious accommodation in instruction to the Principal.

The Board acknowledges the degree to which religion often is incorporated into certain aspects of the arts, literature, music, and issues of morality. The instructional and resource materials approved for use in the District schools sometimes contain religious references or concern moral issues that have traditionally been the focus of religious concern. That such materials may contain such references, or may concern such issues, shall not, by itself, bar their use by the District. The Board directs that professional staff members employing such materials be neutral in their approach and avoid using them to advance or inhibit religion in any way.

The Board recognizes that religious traditions vary in their perceptions and doctrines regarding the natural world and its processes. The curriculum is chosen for its place in the education of the District's students, not for its conformity to religious principles. Students should receive unbiased instruction in the schools, so they may privately accept or reject the knowledge thus gained, in accordance with their own religious tenets if any.

Accordingly, no student shall be exempted from completion of a required course of study on the grounds that components of the instruction interfere with the free exercise of his/her religion. However, if after careful personal review of the program's lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either the content or activities conflict with his/her religious beliefs or value system, the school will honor a written request for his/her child to be excused.

The student will be provided with alternate learning activities during the times of such parent requested absence.

No classroom teacher shall be prohibited from providing reasonable periods of time for activities of a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. No student shall be required to participate in such activities if they are contrary to the religious convictions of the student or his/her parents or guardians.

The District's instructional materials shall not be designed to influence students to accept or reject a particular religious belief or point of view and the District Administrator shall prepare administrative guidelines to that affect.

Complaints by students or the public regarding any such course of study will be handled in accordance with Board Policy 9130.

See Reference: Policy 8800

See References: AG 8800 A, AG 8800B, and AG 8800D

Revised 8/18/14

Revised 12/17/18

© Neola 2019

Legal

U.S. Constitutional Amendment 1

Last Modified by Brittany Wiggins on September 18, 2019