

5843 Religious Exercise by Students

It is the Bayonne Board of Education's Policy that students may pray either alone or with fellow students during the school day on the same terms and conditions that they may engage in other conversation or speech. Students may pray subject to the same rules designed to prevent material disruption of the educational program that are applied to other privately initiated expressive activities. Among other things, students may read bibles or other scriptures, say grace before meals, and pray or study religious materials with fellow students during recess, lunch hour or other non-instructional time to the same extent that they may engage in non-religious activities.

The Bayonne Board of Education will not discriminate against any student prayer or religious speech in applying any rules or restrictions on such activities. Moreover, the Board of Education may choose to excuse students from instructional programs, so as to remove a significant burden on a student's religious exercise, where doing so would not impose material burdens on other students.

The Bayonne Board of Education shall make reasonable accommodations to relieve substantial burdens on a student's exercise of his/her religious beliefs. This may, but shall not be required to, include the school district providing a separate area or space for the students to exercise their religious practices. Any requests for such space shall be subject to availability and other issues relating to the general supervision which would be required to accommodate a student's exercise of their religious rights.

Adopted: 25 February 2010