

**Regulation 6141.2: Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs**

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 8/13/2026

**Last Revised Date:** 8/13/2026

**Last Reviewed Date:** 8/13/2026

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, district-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 district 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 district-sponsored programs are presented in an objective manner, consistent with the accompanying 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

**Opt-Outs**

When a parent/guardian submits a written request to opt the parent's/guardian's student out of instruction based on religious beliefs, customs, or practices, the request shall include the following:

1. The specific instructional content of which the student should be opted out
2. The specific religious belief(s), custom(s), and/or practice(s) with which the specific instructional content substantially interferes
3. How the specific instructional content substantially interferes with the specific religious belief(s), custom(s), and/or practice(s), including any grade level or individual student characteristics relevant to the opt-out request

As necessary, the Superintendent or designee may work with district legal counsel to evaluate each opt-out request and determine whether it shall be granted.

---

**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 Governing 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 51240

Excuse from instruction due to religious beliefs

Ed. Code 51511

Religious matters properly included in courses of

Ed. Code 51930-51939

study California Healthy Youth Act

**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

Mahmoud v. Taylor (2025) 606 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2025 WL 1773627)

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

Website

California Department of Education

Website

CSBA

Website

U.S. Department of Education

**Cross References**

| <b>Code</b> | <b>Description</b>                                           |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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>                              |
| 5020        | <u>Parent Rights And Responsibilities</u>                    |
| 5020        | <u>Parent Rights And Responsibilities</u>                    |
| 5113        | <u>Absences And Excuses</u>                                  |
| 5113        | <u>Absences And Excuses</u>                                  |
| 5121        | <u>Grades/Evaluation Of Student</u>                          |
| 5121        | <u>Achievement</u> <u>Grades/Evaluation Of</u>               |
| 5127        | <u>Student Achievement</u> <u>Graduation</u>                 |
| 5132        | <u>Ceremonies And Activities</u> <u>Dress And</u>            |
| 5132        | <u>Grooming</u>                                              |
| 5138        | <u>Dress And Grooming</u>                                    |
| 5141.31     | <u>Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation</u>                    |
| 5141.31     | <u>Immunizations</u>                                         |
| 5145.2      | <u>Immunizations</u>                                         |
| 5145.2      | <u>Freedom Of Speech/Expression</u>                          |
| 5145.6      | <u>Freedom Of Speech/Expression</u>                          |
| 5145.6-E(1) | <u>Parent/Guardian Notifications</u>                         |
| 6111        | <u>Parent/Guardian Notifications</u>                         |
| 6115        | <u>School Calendar</u>                                       |
| 6115        | <u>Ceremonies And Observances</u>                            |
| 6142.8      | <u>Ceremonies And Observances</u>                            |
| 6142.8      | <u>Comprehensive Health Education</u>                        |
| 6142.93     | <u>Comprehensive Health Education</u>                        |
| 6142.94     | <u>Science Instruction</u>                                   |
| 6143        | <u>History-Social Science Instruction</u> <u>Courses</u>     |
| 6143        | <u>Of Study</u>                                              |
| 6144        | <u>Courses Of Study</u>                                      |
| 6145.5      | <u>Controversial Issues</u>                                  |
|             | <u>Student Organizations And Equal Access</u>                |

|         |                                              |
|---------|----------------------------------------------|
| 6145.5  | <u>Student Organizations And Equal</u>       |
| 6145.8  | <u>Access Assemblies And Special Events</u>  |
| 6154    | <u>Homework/Makeup Work</u>                  |
| 6161.11 | <u>Supplementary Instructional Materials</u> |
| 6176    | <u>Weekend/Saturday Classes</u>              |