

Greater Albany SD 8J
Board Policy

Code: **IGACA**
Adopted: 3/22/04
Readopted: 8/13/07

Religion in the Public Schools

It is the intention of this Board to create a comfortable and accepting atmosphere in the school district. That atmosphere should convey a message of respect and tolerance. Part of that message should be a respect for the varied role of religion in persons' lives.

No religious belief or nonbelief should be promoted by the district or its employees, and none should be disparaged. Instead, the district should utilize its opportunity to foster understanding and mutual respect among its students and parents or guardians¹, whether it involves race, culture, economic background or religious beliefs. In the spirit of tolerance, students and staff members will be excused from participating in practices that are contrary to their religious beliefs without penalty.

The district recognizes that one of its educational goals should be to advance the students' knowledge and appreciation of the role religious heritage has played in the social, cultural and historical development of civilization.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 109.056](#)
[ORS 125.005\(4\)](#)
[ORS 125.300-125.325](#)
[ORS 336.067](#)
[ORS 339.420](#)
[ORS 419B.373](#)

[OAR 581-015-0005\(18\)](#)

¹As used in this policy, the term parent includes legal guardian or person in a parental relationship. The status and duties of a legal guardian are defined in ORS 125.005 (4) and 125.300 - 125.325. The determination of whether an individual is acting in a parental relationship, for purposes of determining residency depends on evaluation of those factors and a power of attorney executed pursuant to ORS 109.056. For special education students, parent also includes a surrogate parent, and adult student to whom rights have transferred and foster parent as defined in OAR 581-015-0005 (18).