

Corbett School District 39

Code: **IGAC**
Adopted: 3/16/88
Revised/Readopted: 9/17/98
Orig. Code(s): IGAC

Teaching about Religion

The public schools are obligated to maintain neutrality in matters of religion.

The importance of religion in history, culture and the arts cannot be ignored and should have a place in education. The distinction must be made, however, between these studies as part of the curriculum and the celebration of religious holidays in a manner that is devotional, doctrinal or both. The distinction rests on whether the purpose or effect of the practice is the advancement of religion.

Since this is a pluralistic society in which a variety of religious beliefs and non-beliefs are held, religious education and activities should promote respect, mutual understanding and sensitivity to the various beliefs held by staff and students. In the spirit of tolerance, students and staff members will be excused from participating in practices which are contrary to their religious beliefs without penalty.

The superintendent shall develop administrative procedures that include guidelines consistent with the philosophy that religion in the schools must be educational in nature and that the schools must be sensitive to all beliefs.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 336.035](#)

United States Constitution, Amendment I.
Oregon Constitution, Article I.