

Teaching about Religion

The Board recognizes that the public schools must remain neutral toward religion and must not prefer one religion over another. The curricular and extracurricular program and school services will therefore be guided by the following policy:

While remaining neutral concerning religious belief, the district schools shall foster respect for each individual's convictions about religion and an understanding and respect for all religions in general.

Factual and objective teaching about religions is approved, but advocacy of religion is not allowed in district classrooms.

Instruction in morality, ethics, and values is approved, but such instruction shall not constitute the endorsement of the beliefs and principles of any particular religious group.

Passages from the Bible may be studied for historical or literary instructional purposes, but Bible reading may not be used for devotional purposes or to influence religious beliefs.

No district personnel shall lead students in prayer, but students are free to pray.

Neither instructional materials nor assembly programs shall be used to promote or encourage nonreligion, partisan religious viewpoints, religious groups, or partisan religious activities.

Materials of a religious nature shall not be distributed through the schools.

Religious music as a part of a secular program or concert shall be permitted. School choruses, bands, orchestras, and other groups may accept invitations to perform at nonschool religious functions only if members of the group may be excused at their request without penalty.

No public school funds shall be used to purchase an intended devotional display or religious symbols.

"Student's religious beliefs shall be honored by excusing them without penalty at their parent's request from school attendance on religious holidays officially recognized by the student's religious faith, where attendance at religious activities or abstinence from secular activities is required by the faith. However, students shall be responsible for making up all school work missed on those days.

Parents may request on behalf of a student that school requirements be modified to accommodate the student's religious beliefs. The principal will review such requests and hold a conference with the parents and, if appropriate, the student to discuss the request and inform the parents of the district's decision.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 336.035](#)

U.S. CONST. amend. I.

OR. CONST., art. I.