

### **Teaching about Religion**

The Board recognizes that the public schools, as agents of government, must remain neutral toward religion and must be careful not to prefer one religion above another.

The Board does, therefore, resolve that the district shall conduct their curricular and cocurricular programs and provide ancillary services in accordance with the following procedures:

1. While the public schools must remain neutral regarding religion, they should foster respect for each individual's convictions about religion and an understanding and respect for all beliefs in general;
2. Factual and objective teaching about religions is to be distinguished from the advocacy of religion;
3. Instruction in morality, ethics and values is encouraged; however, instruction shall not resort to partisan religious sanctions;
4. Bible reading for historical or literary instructional purposes may be permitted as provided by law. Bible reading may not be used for devotional purposes or to influence religious beliefs;
5. Neither instructional materials (including films) nor required assembly programs shall be used to promote or encourage nonreligion, partisan religion, partisan religious viewpoints, religious groups or partisan religious activities;
6. Religious music as part of a secular program or concert shall be permitted. School choruses, bands, orchestras, etc., may accept invitations to perform at nonschool religious functions only on condition that any member of the groups may be excused at his/her request without penalty;
7. No public school funds shall be used to purchase an intended devotional display or religious symbols;
8. Religious baccalaureate services shall not be a required school activity nor sponsored by the district;
9. A student's religious beliefs shall be honored by excusing him/her without penalty at his/her parent's request from school attendance on official religious holidays. Also, upon a parent's request, school requirements will be modified to accommodate an individual student's religious beliefs;
10. Transportation for private, parochial school and/or public charter school students shall be furnished in accordance with the provisions of ORS 332.415;
11. No distinctively religious garbs may be worn while teaching in a public school.

## END OF POLICY

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### **Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 336.035](#)

U.S. CONST. amend. I.

OR. CONST., art. I.