

## Teaching Religion in the Schools

Religious belief or nonbelief shall not be promoted by the district or its employees, and none will be disparaged. The schools shall maintain religious neutrality. Factual and objective teaching about religion is to be distinguished from the teaching or promotion of religion. Consequently, legitimate teaching about religion can be conducted, but teachers and schools will not:

1. Utilize instructional materials that promote or encourage nonreligion, religion, religious viewpoints, religious groups or religious activities;
2. Conduct assemblies and/or programs that promote or encourage religion or nonreligion. A music, art or drama program should not be, nor have the effect of being, religiously oriented or a religious celebration. However, the study of religious music as part of a study of various lands and cultures is appropriate;
3. Offer any form of religious instruction, worship, exercise or persuasion;
4. Attack or promulgate religion, or the absence of religion, or any particular belief system;
5. Question the religious belief, or absence of religious belief, of any student;
6. Require a student to declare a religious preference.

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.