

**Saint Helens
School District 502**

Code: **IGAC**
Adopted: 8/23/99
Readopted: 5/29/07
Orig. Code(s): IGAC

Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs

It is accepted that no religious belief or non-belief 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 students and parents, whether it involves race, culture, economic background or religious beliefs. In that spirit of tolerance, students and staff members should be excused from participating in practices which are contrary to their religious beliefs without penalty unless there are clear issues of overriding concern that would prevent it.

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

Teachers shall be permitted to expose students to information concerning religions and religious beliefs, but teachers shall not advocate, openly or covertly or by subtlety, a particular religion or religious belief.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 336.067](#)
[ORS 339.420](#)