

# Vernonia School District 47J

Code: **IGAC**  
Adopted: 2/10/00  
Orig. Code(s): IGAC

## Teaching about Religion

The public schools are charged with the obligation of maintaining neutrality in the matter of religion.

The requirement of neutrality suggests an ongoing search for sensitivity, understanding, appreciation and factual information about cultural and religious diversity. It also mandates that the schools refrain from advocacy of a particular religious position.

The superintendent will develop administrative regulations 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.

Religious music as part of a secular program or concert is permitted. School choruses, bands, orchestras and other performing groups, may accept invitations to perform at nonschool religious functions only on condition that any member of the group may be excused at his/her request without penalty.

No public school funds will be used for a devotional display or religious symbol.

Religious baccalaureate services will not be a required school activity. Student representatives of graduating classes desiring to have a baccalaureate service outside school hours in the school building shall follow guidelines established for use of district facilities.

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.