

Board Policy Document

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Series 600

Policy Title: Religion

Code Number: 681

I. Religion in the Curriculum

The history of various religions and their relationship to the advancement of civilization is an essential element of a comprehensive education. The literary and historical value of various religions as they relate to diverse disciplines and course objectives is also important to a quality education. A quality educational program will recognize the role of various religions throughout history and promote tolerance for people of various beliefs in a pluralistic and democratic society.

At no time should any one religion or adherence to religion over non-adherence be promoted or shown preference. (See AR681).

II. Religion Recruitment on School Properties

A. District employees will not recruit students or any other individuals for a religious purpose on school properties or at school-sponsored activities. No individual representing a church, synagogue, religious organization, or belief will be permitted to recruit or proselytize students on school premises or at school-sponsored activities.

First Adoption: February 14, 1995
Revision Adoption: December 17, 1996/February 27, 2001
Legal Reference: United States Constitution
Iowa Constitution
Iowa Code Section 299.2
Op. Atty. Gen. 1953
Federal Case Law

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- B. Non-affiliated organizations, including but not limited to those associated with religious organizations may display announcements for activities such as fund raising events, athletic events, or similar events after obtaining approval from school officials.

III. Released Time for Religious Instruction

The school system will permit students to be released from school each week consistent with law for the purpose of receiving religious instruction.

A written request must be signed by a parent or guardian before the student is released. Emancipated students must file a written request on their own behalf.

Teachers and principals are directed to remain neutral in this matter, neither encouraging nor discouraging student participation. Students on released time will not be permitted to recruit students upon their return to school.

Parents may be notified by bulletin or newsletter that permission slips for religious release time are available in each school office and will be issued upon request. After the school has received the appropriate permission slip, the student is expected to attend the released time classes, unless the parent rescinds the permission or approves an absence. Students attending the released time program will be excused by the classroom teacher at the scheduled time approved by the principal.

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