

Policy Title: <p style="text-align: center;">Religion in the Schools</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Administration of Religious Policy</p>	Adoption Date 8/14/90
	Policy Number 509.1

- (1) Teachers should not use the study of religious holidays as an opportunity to proselytize or to inject personal religious beliefs into the discussions. Teachers should avoid asking students to explain their religious beliefs and customs.
- (2) Religious symbols may be used in classrooms only as examples of cultural and religious heritage. But such symbols may be displayed only on a temporary basis as part of the academic program.
- (3) Religious music may be sung or played as part of the academic study of music. School concerts may include some religious selections, but should not be dominated by religious music.
- (4) December holiday programs should serve an educational purpose for all students. Such programs should not make any students feel excluded. Nativity pageants or plays portraying the Hanukkah miracle are not appropriate in the public school setting.
- (5) Students will be allowed a reasonable number of excused absences for religious holidays within their traditions.
- (6) Students from certain religious traditions who ask to be excused from classroom discussions or activities related to particular holidays should be excused.