

CONDUCT RELATED TO SECULAR AND NON-SECTARIAN PRINCIPLES

Background

The *School Act* states that schools "must be conducted on strictly secular and non-sectarian principles. The highest morality must be inculcated, but no religious dogma or creed is to be taught." Further, Board Policy 1 Philosophy and Aims section states that "The Board believes that its mandate is to provide an education which is secular in nature and free from religious, racial or sexual biases". However, the District believes it must not prevent teachers from exploring with students the contribution that religious values and beliefs have made to the social, cultural and historical development of civilizations.

While religious writings provided by outside groups shall neither be advertised nor distributed to students, objective discussion of world religions as they relate to aspects of prescribed, authorized and locally developed curriculum are permitted in District schools.

Procedures

1. Comparative religious studies, guest speakers or multi-cultural field trips and school activities approved by the Principal are acceptable as part of the program of learning activities.
2. Copies of religious works are deemed appropriate for school library reference collections.
3. No endorsement or diminution of any one belief or religious tenet over another shall be made by staff members in educating students to be tolerant and respectful of religious diversity.
4. Events and activities determined by the Principal to be of interest to students and families but which are sponsored or organized by religious groups may be reported in school announcements. Thereby activities such as brownies, guides, cubs, scouts, summer camps, or daycare/preschools are drawn to the attention of families as a public service.
5. Voluntarily attended activities which inform, but do not recruit or indoctrinate students may be held on school premises outside of regular instructional hours, as determined by the Principal.
6. The District will rent school facilities to religious groups for use outside of school hours according to District procedures.

Reference: Section 76, School Act

Last reviewed: September 2025