Regulation 6141.2: Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 05/01/1985 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/01/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/01/2024

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the following for the recognition of religious beliefs and customs in district schools:

1. The approach to religion is academic and not devotional
2. The goal is for student awareness of religion in historical and contemporary societies
3. The students may not be pressed to accept any one religion
4. The school may include the study of religion as part of the history-social science curriculum, but the practice of religions may not be sponsored
5. The students may be exposed to and educated about a diversity of religious views and beliefs, but a particular view or belief may not be imposed, nor may any one religion be promoted or denigrated

Staff shall make every effort to schedule one-time events, such as examinations, school-sponsored trips, special laboratories, picture-taking days, and class parties, to minimize conflicts with major religious holidays of all faiths such that no one faith is disproportionately impacted.

Programs and Exhibits

When school programs and exhibits are in any way related to instruction about religion or religious holidays, the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. The principal or designee shall ensure that school-sponsored programs are presented in an objective manner, consistent with Board policy.
2. The principal or designee shall be kept informed of the program's development.
3. Program or exhibit planners shall take into consideration the diverse religious faiths represented in the community, student body and staff.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
Ed. Code 38130-38139	Civic Center Act
Ed. Code 46014	Absences for religious purposes
Ed. Code 51511	Religious matters properly included in courses of study

Ed. Code 51938	Right of parent/guardian to excuse from sexual health instruction

Federal	**Description**
20 USC 4071-4074	Equal Access Act
20 USC 6061	School prayer
20 USC 7904	School prayer

Management Resources	**Description**
California Department of Education Publication	Appendix F history social science framework for California public schools
Court Decision	Florey v. Sioux Falls (1980) 619 F.2d 1311
Court Decision	Fellowship of Christian Athletes v. San Jose Unified School District Board of Education (2023) 82 F.4th 664
Court Decision	Kennedy v. Bremerton (2022) 142 S.Ct. 2407
Court Decision	Cole v. Oroville Union High School District (2000, 9th Cir.) 228 F.3d 1092
Court Decision	Lassonde v. Pleasanton Unified School District (2003, 9th Cir.) 320 F.3d 979
Court Decision	Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971) 403 U.S. 602
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, May 2023
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Department of Education
Website	CSBA
Website	U.S. Department of Education

Cross References

Code	**Description**
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
1325	Advertising And Promotion
1330	Use Of School Facilities
1330	Use Of School Facilities
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113	Absences And Excuses
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement

5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
5132	Dress And Grooming
5132	Dress And Grooming
5141.31	Immunizations
5141.31	Immunizations
5145.2	Freedom Of Speech/Expression
5145.2	Freedom Of Speech/Expression
6111	School Calendar
6115	Ceremonies And Observances
6115	Ceremonies And Observances
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education
6142.93	Science Instruction
6142.94	History-Social Science Instruction
6143	Courses Of Study
6143	Courses Of Study
6144	Controversial Issues
6145.5	Student Organizations And Equal Access
6145.5	Student Organizations And Equal Access
6145.8	Assemblies And Special Events
6154	Homework/Makeup Work
6161.11	Supplementary Instructional Materials
6176	Weekend/Saturday Classes