

Instruction

AR 6141.2(a)

RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS

Upon written request of the parent/guardian, a student shall be excused from any part of health, family life or sex education which conflicts with the religious training, beliefs, or personal moral convictions of the parent/guardian or student. (Education Code 51240)
(cf. 6142.1 -Family Life/Sex Education)

Alternate activities shall be provided for students who are so excused.

Staff shall make every effort to avoid scheduling examinations, school-sponsored trips, special laboratories, picture-taking days and class parties on established religious holidays.

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 not, or do not have the effect of being, religiously oriented or a religious celebration.
2. The principal or designee shall participate in planning the program or exhibit and shall be kept informed of its development.
3. Program or exhibit planners shall take into consideration the diverse religious faiths represented in the community, student body and staff.
4. Students and staff whose beliefs prohibit their participation in a program shall be excused without penalty, and an alternate activity shall be provided for any such students.
(cf. 0410- Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

Please consider the following guidelines as you examine school and classroom practices relative to religious holiday observances.

1. Promote tolerance and understanding of all religious views as an integral part of school practice and curriculum.
2. For strictly educational purposes, create opportunities to present a variety of religious holidays of all major religious (Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Moslem). Assure equity in areas such as emphasis, duration, information, instructional time and activity.
3. Religious displays or symbols are permissible as a teaching aid or resource. They should be used only as examples of cultural and religious heritage. Religious symbols may be displayed only on a temporary basis as a part of the academic program.

AR 6141.2(b)

RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS (continued)

4. The activity shall be limited to factual and objective teaching about a religious observance; actual observance of any religious holiday must be avoided.
5. Celebrate the Christmas season with the theme of "peace and good will." The "peace and good will" theme can be expressed in such a way that it does not cause pain or affront to anyone.
6. Sacred music may be sung or played as part of the academic study of music. School concerts that present a variety of selections may include religious music. Concerts should avoid programs dominated by religious music, especially when these coincide with a particular religious holiday.
7. Holiday concerns in December may appropriately include music related to specific holidays, but religious music should not dominate. While recognizing the holiday season, none of the school activities should have the purpose or effect of promoting or inhibiting religion.

Regulation
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CULVER CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Culver City, California