



Policy Title & Number	609- Religion Policy
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Date Created:	June 26, 2018
Past Policy Revision Date(s):	
Related Policy(ies):	
Policy Type (Operating, Board)	Operating

A. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to identify the status of religion as it pertains to the programs of the school district.

B. Definitions

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C. Policy Statement

- A. The school district shall neither promote nor disparage any religious belief or nonbelief. Instead, the school district encourages all students and employees to have appreciation for and tolerance of each other's views.
- B. The school district also recognizes that religion has had and is having a significant role in the social, cultural, political, and historical development of civilization.
- C. The school district recognizes that one of its educational objectives is to increase its students' knowledge and appreciation of music, art, drama, and literature which may have had a religious basis or origin as well as a secular importance.

D. The school district supports the inclusion of religious music, art, drama, and literature in the curriculum and in school activities provided it is intrinsic to the learning experience and is presented in an objective manner without sectarian indoctrination.

E. The historical and contemporary values and the origin of various religions, holidays, customs and beliefs may be explained in an unbiased and nonsectarian manner.

This policy may be revised at any time without notice. All revisions supersede prior policy and are effective immediately upon approval by the Director.

D. Associated Procedures or Other Information

It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director/designee to ensure that the study of religious materials, customs, beliefs and holidays in the school district is in keeping with the following guidelines:

1. The proposed activity must have a secular purpose.
2. The primary objective of the activity must be one that neither advances nor inhibits religion.
3. The activity must not foster excessive governmental relationships with religion.
4. Notwithstanding the foregoing guidelines, reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate any student who wishes to be excused from attendance at school for the purpose of religious instruction or observance of religious holidays.

E. Associated Forms

Legal References:

U. S. Const., amend. I Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 12(3) (Compulsory Instruction) Minn. Stat. § 120A.35 (Absence From School for Religious Observance) *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S.602, 91 S.Ct. 2105, 29 L.Ed.2d 745 (1971) *Florey v. Sioux Falls Sch. Dist.* 49-5, 619 F.2d 1311 (8th Cir. 1980) *Stark v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 640*, 123 F.3d 1068 (8th Cir. 1997) *Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290, 120 S.Ct. 2266 (2000) *Tangipahoa Parish Bd. of Educ. v. Freiler*, 530 U.S. 1251, 120 S.Ct. 2706 (2000) *LeVake v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 656*, 625 N.W.2d 502 (Minn. App. 2001) *Good News Club v. Milford Central School*, 533 U.S. 98, 121 S.Ct. 2093, 150 L.Ed.2d 151 (2001) *Doe v. School Dist. of City of Norfolk*, 340 F.3d 605 (8th Cir. 2003) *Wigg v. Sioux Falls Sch. Dist.*, 382 F.3d 807 (8th Cir. 2004) Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 169-J (Feb. 14, 1968) Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 169-K (Oct. 21, 1949) Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 63 (1940) Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 120 (1924) Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 121 (1924)