

RELIGION IN SCHOOL

POLICY

The Constitution of the United States of America forbids District action or practices that aid or prefer one religion over another or that aid all religions and thus endorse or show preference for religion over nonreligion. The District will encourage all students and staff members to appreciate and be respectful of each other's religious views.

The proper role of religion in the public schools is its educational value and not in religious observance or celebration. This goal is achieved through curriculum that advances the students' knowledge and appreciation of the role religious heritage has played in the social, cultural, and historical development of civilization. Typically, these are components of an academic curriculum offered at the comprehensive high school and are not intrinsic to the learning experience at the Career Tech Center.

Parents of a secondary student, or the individual adult student, may request an absence from school on a religious holiday. This absence shall be recognized as an excused absence. Employees may utilize accrued leave for observance of a religious holiday which falls on a regularly scheduled work day. The District shall be reticent to ask for disclosure of personal religious preferences or beliefs and may do so only where there is a legitimate need to determine the good faith belief, such as when the person has requested a day off for religious observances.

During non-instructional time, students have the right to pray individually or in groups and to discuss their religious views with their peers as long as they are not disruptive. Employees have the right to pray individually or in groups and to discuss their religious views with their peers during personal time. To avoid giving the impression the District endorses the teacher's religious views, employees are directed to refrain from expressing personal religious viewpoints in the classroom.