

## INSTRUCTION

### Religious-Related Activities and Practices

No religious belief should be promoted by the District or its employees, and none should be disparaged. Instead, the District should encourage all students and staff members to appreciate and be tolerant of each other's religious views. The District should utilize its opportunity to foster understanding and mutual respect among students and parents, whether it involves race, culture, economic background, or religious beliefs.

The District recognizes that one of its educational goals is to advance the students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that our religious heritage has played in the social, cultural, and historical development of civilization. Criteria used to guide academic inquiry in the study of religion shall seek the same neutrality, objectivity, and educational effectiveness expected in other areas of the curriculum. Instruction about religious matters and/or use of religious materials shall be objective, neutral, and non-devotional and shall serve a secular educational purpose.

Students and staff members may be excused from participating in practices that are contrary to their religious beliefs unless the District has an overriding interest in requiring their participation. Students and staff members who have been so excused will participate in an alternate comparable activity.

#### **Cross References:**

(cf. 2153 Noncurriculum-related Student Groups)  
(cf. 3122 Excused and Unexcused Absences)  
(cf. 3220 Freedom of Expression)  
(cf. 3223 Freedom of Assembly)  
(cf. 3224 Student Dress)  
(cf. 4220 Complaints Concerning Staff or Program)  
(cf. 4237 Contests, Advertising and Promotions)  
(cf. 4235 Public Performances)  
(cf. 4260 Use of School Facilities)

#### **Legal References:**

U.S. Constitution First Amendment, Fourteenth Amendment  
20 USC § 4071, et seq. Equal Access Act  
WSC 0001.11 Wash. Constitution Art. I, § 11  
WSC 0009.04 Wash. Constitution Art. 9, Sec. 4 and Art. 26  
RCW 28A.600.025 Students' rights of religious expression--Duty of superintendent of public instruction to inform school districts  
WAC 180-40-227 School district rules defining students' religious rights

Adoption Date: December 11, 1985

Revised: May 23, 2001

Revised: July 9, 2003