



IMDC-R - TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION/RELIGION IN SCHOOLS

INTRODUCTION

The Constitutions of the United States and Colorado require that no activity of Poudre School District shall be permitted which has the purpose or effect of advancing or inhibiting either religious belief or non-

2. Religious themes in the arts, literature, and history may be included to enhance student understanding that religion and diversity of beliefs are basic components of our cultural heritage. Such studies should never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs.
3. School programs, performances, and celebrations shall serve an educational purpose. The inclusion of religious music, symbols, art, or writings may be permitted if the religious content has an independent education purpose which contributes to the stated objectives of the approved curriculum. Intent, effect, and timing should be considered when planning school performances and activities.

STUDENT EXPRESSION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

1. Students are free to express religious beliefs or non-beliefs including in discussions, compositions, art forms, music, speech, and debate.
2. No form of prayer, worship, or expression of religious belief or non-belief shall be prescribed or sanctioned in fact or in appearance by the schools. This shall not, however, be construed to restrict students from engaging in spontaneous discussion about religion, personal prayer, or personal meditation which is not disruptive of the educational process and does not infringe upon the privacy rights of others.
3. A great diversity exists in Poudre School District. Therefore, reasonable efforts shall be made to be sensitive to the religious observances of students so that the required school work, including tests, can be made up. Students are responsible for notifying school officials in advance and arranging for make-up work. Students should be excused only to the extent that their ability to complete the educational program is not jeopardized.

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3. Procedure

a. To be included, material or activities must meet the two criteria outlined in the introduction:

(1) The answers to the three-part test must be positive; and

(2)

(2) Special attention in determining the effect of the activity shall be

- b. Both parties in the appeal may attend and will be requested to present their positions verbally or in writing.

3. Third Level Appeal

- a. Either party in the second level review may appeal the committee's decision to the assistant superintendent of school services, or designee.
- b. A written request for an appeal must be filed within five (5) school days after the date of the decision. The written request must set forth all reasons for disagreement with the decision rendered and must be accompanied by all previously submitted documents and decisions.
- c. The assistant superintendent of school services, or designee, shall review the material submitted.
- d. A written decision will be provided within five (5) school days after receipt of the appeal. The assistant superintendent of school services, or designee, will make the final decision and communicate that decision to the parties.