

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 6 - INSTRUCTION

6:70 Teaching About Religions

The School District's curriculum may include the study of religions as they relate to geography, history, culture, literature and the arts, and the development of various ethnic groups. The study of religions shall give neither preferential nor derogatory treatment to any single religion, religious belief, or to religion in general. The study of religions shall be treated as an academic subject with no emphasis on the advancement or practice of religion.

LEGAL REF.:

Mahmoud v. Taylor, 606 U.S. 522 (2025).^{C1}

Allegheny County v. ACLU Pittsburgh Chapter, 492 U.S. 573 (1989).

School Dist. of Abington Twp v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963).

Allegheny County v. ACLU Pittsburgh Chapter, 492 U.S. 573 (1989).

CROSS REF.: 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:255 (Assemblies and Ceremonies)

ADOPTED: June 15, 2022

Riverside Public School District 96

PRESSPlus Comments

- C1. In Mahmoud v. Taylor, 606 U.S. 522 (2025), the U.S. Supreme Court held that a public school “burdens the religious exercise of parents when it requires them to submit their children to instruction that poses ‘a very real threat of undermining’ the religious beliefs and practices that the parents wish to instill.” Consult the board attorney on questions related to religious opt-outs from curriculum, and see policy 6:260, *Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs*. **Issue 122, June 2026**