COMMITMENT TO RELIGIOUS NEUTRALITY

The Board recognizes that religion has played an undeniable role in the formation of the world's peoples, its civilizations, the foundation of our country, and the lives of its citizens. The place of religion in our society should be recognized as an important one.

At the same time, under the Constitution of the United States, our schools must remain neutral regarding religion, neither favoring nor disfavoring religion or any particular religious belief while respecting the constitutional rights of students and employees to engage in protected private religious expression.

The proper role of religion in the public schools is in its educational value in the study of subjects such as history, literature, and art, and in objective, educational recognition of the place of religion in society. In that capacity, and when appropriate within the curriculum, the subject of religion can provide a basis for schools to teach our children about various belief systems, and their current and historical impact on human culture. The nonreligious study of religion also provides a basis for the schools to play a vital role in instilling understanding, tolerance and mutual respect among people of different backgrounds.

Adopted: November 16, 2026

LEGAL REF.:
28-1-2 NMSA *et seq.*

U.S. Const. amend. I

CROSS REF.:
JB - Equal Educational Opportunities
JII - Student Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances
JJAB - Limited Open/Closed Forum
JK - Student Discipline
JKD - Student Suspension/Expulsion
KED - Public Concerns/Complaints about Facilities or Services

Note: This material is written by NMSBA for informational purposes only, and not as legal advice. You may wish to consult with your attorney for further explanation and advice as to the content of this advisory.