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| Book | Policy Manual |
| Section | Policies for the Board March/April |
| Title | Copy of VOL. 30, NO. 1 - RELIGIOUS AND PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES |
| Code | po8800 *CF 2/15/2021 Update |
| Status | |

TECHNICAL CORRECTION - VOL. 30, NO. 1

8800 - RELIGIOUS AND PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

Decisions of the United States Supreme Court have made it clear that it is not the province of a public school to advance or inhibit religious beliefs or practices. Under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution, this remains the inviolate province of the individual and the church of his/her choice. The rights of any minority, no matter how small, must be protected. No matter how well-intended, either official or unofficial sponsorship of religiously-oriented activities by the school are offensive to some and tend to supplant activities which should be the exclusive province of individual religious groups, churches, private organizations, or the family.

District staff members shall not use prayer, religious readings, or religious symbols as a devotional exercise or in an act of worship or celebration.

Distribution of any outside organization's materials, including a request by any person wishing to facilitate dissemination of materials on District property may make a request in accordance with Policy 7510 and AG 7510A - Use of District Facilities and Policy 9700 - Relations with Non-School Affiliated Groups and AG 9700A - Distribution of Materials to Students.

The Board acknowledges that it is prohibited from adopting any policy or rule respecting or promoting an establishment of religion or prohibiting any student from the free, individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the student's religious beliefs. However, such exercise or expression may be limited to lunch periods or other non-instructional time periods when students are free to associate.

Observance of religious holidays through devotional exercises or acts of worship is also prohibited. Acknowledgment of, explanation of, and teaching about religious holidays of various religions is encouraged. Celebration activities involving nonreligious decorations and use of secular works are permitted, but it is the responsibility of all faculty members to ensure that such activities are strictly voluntary, do not place an atmosphere of social compulsion or ostracism on minority groups or individuals, and do not interfere with the regular school program.

The Board shall not conduct or sanction a baccalaureate service in conjunction with graduation ceremonies.

The Board shall not include religious invocations, benedictions, or formal prayer at any school-sponsored event.

In accordance with the U.S. Flag Code requirements, the flag of the United States shall be raised above each school and/or at other appropriate places during all school sessions.

Professional staff members are authorized to lead students in the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem at an appropriate time each school day. No student may be compelled against the student's objections or those of the student's parents to recite the Pledge or sing the National Anthem.

Every school in the District shall offer the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem each school day in grades 1 through 12. District staff conducting these activities shall protect the rights and the privacy of a nonparticipating student.

Legal

118.06(2), Wis. Stats.

20 U.S.C. 4071 et seq.

Last Modified by Coleen Frisch on April 6, 2021