

Document Status: Draft Update

INSTRUCTION

6:255 Assemblies and Ceremonies

Assemblies must be approved by the Superintendent or designee and be consistent with the District's educational objectives.

While ~~the District respects an individual's brief, quiet, personal religious observance(s).~~ [PRESSPlus1](#) ~~it~~ shall not endorse or otherwise promote invocations, benedictions, and group prayers at any school assembly, ceremony, or other school-sponsored activity.

LEGAL REF.:

[Lee v. Weisman](#), 505 U.S. 577 (1992).

[Santa Fe Independent Sch. Dist. v. Doe](#), 530 U.S. 290 (2000).

[Kennedy v. Bremerton Sch. Dist.](#), 142 S.Ct. 2407 (2022).

Jones v. Clear Creek Independent Sch. Dist., 930 F.2d 416 (5th Cir. 1991), *cert. granted, judgement vacated*, 505 U.S. 1215 (1992), *remand*, 977 F.2d 963, *reh'g denied*, 983 F.2d 234 (5th Cir. 1992), and *cert. denied*, 508 U.S. 967 (1993).

CROSS REF.: 6:70 (Teaching About Religion), 6:80 (Teaching About Controversial Issues)

Adopted: September 2, 2021

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to [Kennedy v. Bremerton Sch. Dist.](#), 142 S.Ct. 2407 (2022), where the Supreme Court held that a football coach had a right to pray on the 50-yard line after games, even though still on duty, because he was engaged in a "brief, quiet, personal religious observance doubly protected by the Free Exercise and Free Speech Clauses of the First Amendment." Consult the board attorney if considering a policy or practice of prohibiting employees from engaging in private prayer in the presence of students. **Issue 110, October 2022**