

Sheridan School District 48J

Code: **IGAC**
Adopted: 2/01/94
Readopted: 6/20/12
Orig. Code(s): IGAC

Teaching about Religion

The public schools are obligated to maintain neutrality in matters of religion. Religious education is the responsibility of the home and church and within the district's schools shall remain the free choice of the individual, true to American heritage and the Constitution.

Religion influences many areas of education such as literature and history. Religion's role in civilization can and should be properly taught. Teachers may provide information and opportunity for students to study the forms of various religions. It is proper for teachers to teach about religion as opposed to teaching sectarian beliefs, although study of the Bible and other sacred documents as literary forms may inform students concerning particular sectarian belief.

The neutrality requirement suggests an ongoing search for sensitivity, understanding, appreciation and factual information about cultural and religious diversity. It also mandates that schools refrain from the ~~advocacy~~ **promotion or inhibition** of a particular religious position.

Religion in the schools must be educational in nature and schools must be sensitive to all beliefs.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 336.035](#)

U.S. CONST. amend. I.
OR. CONST., art. I.

12/28/00 | MW