

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)

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**