

R 2270 RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS

Pupil Prayer and Religious Discussion

Pupils may pray in a non-disruptive manner when not engaged in school activities or instruction. Specifically, pupils in informal settings, such as cafeterias and hallways, may pray and discuss their religious views with each other, subject to the same rules of order as apply to other pupil activities and speech, and provided that such prayer or discussion does not constitute harassment of other pupils.

Pupils may also participate in before or after school events with religious content on the same terms as they may participate in other non-curriculum activities on school premises. The school administration will neither discourage nor encourage participation in such an event.

Teachers and school administrators will ensure that no pupil is in any way coerced to participate in religious activity.

Graduate Prayer and Baccalaureates

The school administration will not mandate or organize prayer at graduation, nor organize religious baccalaureate ceremonies.

Official Neutrality Regarding Religious Activity

Teachers and school administrators are prohibited from soliciting or encouraging religious activity, and from participating in such activity with pupils.

Teaching About Religion

The schools will not provide religious instruction, but they may teach about religion, including the Bible or other scripture, the history of religion, comparative religion, the Bible (or other scripture) as literature, and the role of religion in the history of the United States and other countries all are permissible public school subjects. Similarly, it is permissible to consider religious influences on art, music, literature, and social studies.

Pupil Assignments

Pupils may express their beliefs about religion in the form of homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free of discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions.



Religious Literature

Pupils have a right to distribute religious literature to their schoolmates on the same terms as they are permitted to distribute other literature that is unrelated to school curriculum or activities.

Religious Excusals

The schools will exercise discretion in excusing pupils from instruction for religious reasons. The schools will also exercise discretion in excusing pupils for off premises religious instruction.

Pupil Garb

Pupils may display religious messages on clothing to the extent they are permitted to display other comparable messages.

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