

Instruction

Teaching About Religions

The School District's curriculum may include the study of religions as they relate to geography, history, culture, and the development of various ethnic groups. The study of religions shall give neither preferential nor derogatory treatment to any single religion, religious belief or to religion in general. The study of religions shall be treated as an academic subject with no emphasis on the advancement or practice of religion.

Special programs in keeping with recognized holiday customs may be presented during nationally recognized holiday periods, even though the holiday may have evolved from a religious heritage. However, any program involving use of material having a religious theme or heritage shall not be presented as a religious exercise or with a devotional approach, but shall be utilized solely in a context relevant to general customs of the particular holiday.

LEGAL REF.: School Dist of Abington Twp v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963).
Allegheny County v. ACLU Pittsburgh Chapter, 492 U.S. 573 (1989).

CROSS REF.: 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:255 (Assemblies and Ceremonies)

ADOPTED: April 5, 2011, July 17, 2012

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