

## TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION

Schools must be neutral in matters of religion. The District must show no preference for one religion over another and must refrain from the promotion of any religion. No pupil shall be required to participate in programs or meditations based upon moral, philosophical or patriotic themes if they are contrary to the religious convictions of the pupil or the pupil's parent(s)/legal guardian(s).

Teaching about religious holidays or about religion in general should be objective, and avoid any doctrinal impact or any implication that religious doctrines have the support of school authority.

It is the responsibility of the public schools to foster mutual understanding and respect for all individuals and beliefs. In pursuing this goal, teachers in the public schools should recognize that holidays are observed differently by different religious groups. Teachers should also respect the fact that some individuals' beliefs do not include religious observances.

[Adoption date: October 4, 2001]

### LEGAL REFERENCES

U.S. Const. Amend. I  
ORC 3313.601

### CROSS REFERENCES

INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues  
IND, School Ceremonies and Observances  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities