2270 RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS

The Board of Education directs that no religious belief or nonbelief shall be promoted in the regular curriculum or in district-sponsored courses, programs or activities, and none shall be disparaged.

The Board also recognizes that a genuine and broad secular program of education is furthered by advancement of pupils' knowledge of society's cultural and religious heritage. Therefore, the several holidays throughout the year which have a religious or cultural basis may be recognized in the school by use of material having secular or cultural significance.

However, music, art, literature, dance and drama having religious themes or bases are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs if presented in a prudent and respectful manner to illustrate cultural and religious heritage.

The instructional program of the school should inform pupils of many beliefs and customs stemming from religious, racial, ethnic and cultural heritages. Such instruction should be designed to broaden the pupils' understanding of the many cultures of the world.

The Superintendent of Schools, through the Principals, shall ensure that teachers follow these guidelines for programs and activities in which pupils engage in the recognition of religious beliefs and customs.

U.S. Consti. Amend. 1
U.S. Department of Education - Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools – February 7, 2003
N.J. Consti. (1947) Art. 1, para. 4
N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6 et seq.; 18A:36-16

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