

Policy — 2340

Instruction

Religious-Related Activities or Practices

The board recognizes that views and opinions regarding the relationship of the school and religion are diverse. While community opinions are important in shaping policy, the board must give primary credence to the United States and Idaho state constitutions and the decisions made by the respective courts when establishing guidelines for making decisions regarding religious-related activities and practices. The board further accepts the declaration that "all students ... possess the constitutional right to the free exercise of religion and to have their schools free from sectarian control or influence." To this end, the board hereby establishes the following guidelines to preserve the rights of all students within the framework of the respective Constitutions.

- A. Instruction about religious matters and/or using religious materials shall be conducted in an objective, neutral, non-devotional manner.
- B. A student may decline to participate in a school activity that is contrary to his/her religious convictions.
- C. If non-curriculum-related student groups are permitted to meet on school premises immediately before or after school hours, students shall be permitted to meet to discuss political, philosophical or other issues provided such group meetings are student-initiated, student-managed and in compliance with policy 2153 authorizing such meetings.
- D. A student may distribute religious literature under the same conditions that other literature may be distributed on the campus provided that such distribution does not intrude on the operation of the school.
- E. Material and/or announcements promoting religion may not be distributed by non-students or on behalf of groups or individuals who are not students.
- F. Religious services, programs or assemblies shall not be conducted in school facilities during school hours or in connection with any school sponsored or school related activity. Religious groups may rent school facilities under the policy providing for facilities rental. Activities of such groups shall be clearly separated from school sponsored activities so that the school district does not support or appear to support the establishment of religion.
- G. Musical, artistic and dramatic presentations which have a religious theme may be included in course work and programs on the basis of their particular artistic and educational value or traditional sectarian usage. They shall be presented in a neutral, non-devotional manner, and be related to the objective of the instructional program.
- H. A student, upon the request of a parent, may be excused to participate in religious instruction for a portion of a school day provided the activity is not conducted on

