

Adopted: November 12, 2011

Reviewed: May 2021

Twin Cities International Schools

RELIGION (609)

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to identify the status of religion as it pertains to the programs of the school district.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district shall neither promote nor disparage any religious belief or non-belief. Instead, the school district encourages all students and employees to have appreciation for and tolerance of each other's views.
- B. The school district also recognizes that religion has had and is having a significant role in the social, cultural, political, and historical development of civilization. The school supports the inclusion of education about religions provided it is presented in an objective manner without sectarian indoctrination.
- C. The historical and contemporary values and the origin of various religions, holidays, customs and beliefs may be explained in an unbiased and nonsectarian manner.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the director to ensure that the study of religious materials, customs, beliefs and holidays in the school district is in keeping with the following guidelines:
 - 1. The proposed activity must have a secular purpose.
 - 2. The primary objective of the activity must be one that neither advances nor inhibits religion.
 - 3. The activity must not foster excessive governmental relationships with religion.
- B. The director is granted authority to develop and present for school board review

and approval directives and guidelines for the purpose of providing further guidance relative to the teaching of materials related to religion. Approved directives and guidelines shall be attached as an addendum to this policy.

Legal References: U. S. Const., amend. I

Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 12(3) (Compulsory Instruction)

Minn. Stat. § 120A.35 (Absence From School for Religious Observance) *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S.602, 91 S.Ct. 2105, 29 L.Ed.2d 745 (1971) *Florey v. Sioux Falls Sch. Dist. 49-5*, 619 F.2d 1311 (8th Cir. 1980)

Stark v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 640, 123 F.3d 1068 (8th Cir. 1997)

Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe, 530 U.S. 290, 120 S.Ct. 2266 (2000) *Tangipahoa Parish Bd. of Educ. v. Freiler*, 530 U.S. 1251, 120 S.Ct. 2706 (2000)

LeVake v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 656, 625 N.W.2d 502 (Minn. App. 2001)

Good News Club v. Milford Central School, 533 U.S. 98, 121 S.Ct. 2093, 150 L.Ed.2d 151 (2001)

Doe v. School Dist. of City of Norfolk, 340 F.3d 605 (8th Cir. 2003)

Wigg v. Sioux Falls Sch. Dist., 382 F.3d 807 (8th Cir. 2004) Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 169-J (Feb. 14, 1968)

Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 169-K (Oct. 21, 1949) Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 63 (1940)

Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 120 (1924) Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 121 (1924)