

Religion in the Public Schools

Separation of Church and State

It is the policy of this Board that the public schools will, at all times and in all ways, be neutral in matters of religion.

This policy shall be understood in light of the public schools' responsibility to educate students to be tolerant and respectful of religious diversity. This policy shall also be understood in light of the public schools' responsibility to advance students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religion has played in the social, cultural and historical development of civilization.

The building Principal is responsible for monitoring compliance with this policy. Pertinent information may be included in the student, parent and staff handbooks.

Holiday Programs

Programs that recognize religious holidays should be inclusive and primarily have an artistic, cultural or seasonal nature.

Students with written permission from parents and/or guardians and staff may elect to be excused from participating in holiday programs that are contrary to their religious beliefs unless the public interest compels such participation. The request to be excused from such participation should be sent to the Principal in advance of such program.

Absences for Religious Observances

Reasonable student absences for religious observances shall be excused. Furthermore, such absences shall neither prohibit receipt of attendance-related awards nor impact student grades or participation in school events.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-16a Silent Meditation

10-29a Certain days to be proclaimed by governor. Distribution and number of proclamations

Adopted: September 14, 2021

NORTH CANAAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
North Canaan, Connecticut