

Integrated Day Charter School

Governing Board



Policy Series: 6000

Policy Number: 6115/6141.21

Instruction

School Ceremonies and Observances/Religion in Public Schools

Silent Meditation

The Board directs that an opportunity shall be provided at the beginning of each school day for students and staff to observe a period of time for silent meditation.

Salute to the Flag/Pledge of Allegiance

Time shall also be provided daily, preferably during morning meeting, to provide the opportunity for students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Participation in the Pledge is voluntary. Those who, for some personal philosophy or belief, choose not to participate may remain seated and use the time for quiet reflection.

Religious Ceremonies

While the Supreme Court of the United States has declared it illegal to hold formal, prescribed religious exercises in public schools, the following types of school activities are permitted so long as they do not take on the character of religious devotion:

1. Writing or analyzing literature on religious subjects
2. Playing, singing and presentation of music which is religious in its inspiration or origin
3. Performance of drama which deals with religious history or which is religious in its content
4. Production or exhibition of art work dealing with religious themes
5. Recognition of significant religious holidays by declaring school vacations or by sponsoring activities which acknowledge the importance of these holidays in our cultural life
6. Comparative studies of religion
7. Analyses of the Bible, and other religious books, as part of the study of religions
8. Studies of the contribution made by religion to civilization
9. Study of the Bible for its historic significance
10. Study of the Bible for its literary importance
11. Recitations or study of historical documents that contain references to God
12. Singing of official anthems which contain references to God

Holidays and Special Events

Holidays and special events may be recognized as long as such recognition is consistent with law.

Songs and customs which have come to us from the various ethnic and racial segments of our population may be used so as to broaden the awareness of our students to the contributions which each segment has made to the composite American culture.

The recognition of holidays of different religions presents a natural and convenient opportunity for providing learning experiences to develop understanding, appreciation and respect for religious diversity. Recognition of religious holidays must be a secular education experience directed solely to enhancing tolerance of and respect for religious diversity and must be developmentally and age-appropriate, accurate in content and objective in presentation.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-16a Silent Meditation
 10-29a Certain days to be proclaimed by governor. Distribution
 and number of proclamations
 10-230 Flags for schoolrooms and schools
 PA-02-119, An Act Concerning Bullying Behavior in Schools and
 Concerning the Pledge of Allegiance