

Celebration of Holidays

The MSAD #51 Board creates this policy with a shared commitment of respect for individual religious beliefs expressed in the constitutional guarantee of religious liberty while ensuring its educational goal to advance students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religion plays in the social, cultural, and historical development of civilization.

The Board acknowledges that it is neither possible nor desirable for our schools to simply ignore religion and avoid all materials with a religious theme or implication.

MSAD #51 may neither promote nor inhibit religious belief or non-belief, so long as expressions of religious belief or non-belief are consistent with school rules and respect the rights of others.

The MSAD #51 Board directs its administrators, teachers, and students with cooperation of parents and community, to make practical and reasonable decisions regarding religious holidays when in school. This requires a sensitivity to the needs of every student and a willingness to steer a course between the avoidance of all references to religion, on the one hand, and the promotion of religion on the other.

The intent of this policy and related regulations is to reflect and balance the academic and instruction mission of our schools, the law, and legal guidelines related to the separation of church and state, the richness and diversity of our population and sensitivity to the rights and dignity of the individual, as they relate to the celebration of holidays.

Adopted: May 7, 2012

Celebration of Holidays Regulations

The MSDA #51 School Board approves the following regulations in support of celebrating holidays in its school system:

- 1.1. Holidays, which have a religious origin, may be acknowledged in the public schools.
- 1.2. The historical and contemporary values and the origin of those holidays may be explained in an unbiased and objective manner without sectarian indoctrination.
- 1.3. Music, art, literature, and drama, having religious themes or basis, will be permitted as part of the curricula for school-sponsored activities and programs, if presented in an objective manner.
 - 1.3.a. The duration of such programs and activities, which should be linked to the school's curriculum, should not exceed a period of time equivalent to the academic value of the program or activity.
- 1.4. Symbols that are a part of a religion are permitted provided such symbols are displayed as examples of the cultural and religious heritage of the holiday and are temporary in nature
- 1.5. Acknowledgement of a holiday will emphasize the historical, cultural, and social value of the holiday and the associated religion and will not be used to endorse any religion or holiday.

Adopted: May 7, 2012

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLIDAYS

- 1.0 The Board of Education creates this policy with a shared commitment of respect for individual religious beliefs expressed in the constitutional guarantee of religious liberty, while ensuring its educational goal to advance students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religion plays in the social, cultural, and historical development of civilization.
 - 1.1. The Board acknowledges that it is neither possible nor desirable for our schools to simply ignore religion and avoid all materials with a religious theme or implication
- 2.0 Scarborough School Department may neither promote nor inhibit religious belief or non-belief, so long as expressions of religious belief or non-belief are consistent with school rules and respect the rights of others.
- 3.0 The Board directs its administrators, teachers, and students, with the cooperation of parents and community, to make practical and reasonable decisions regarding religious holidays when in school. This requires a sensitivity to the needs of every student and a willingness to steer a course between the avoidance of all references to religion, on the one hand, and the promotion of religion on the other.
- 4.0 The intent of this policy and related regulations, which reflect and balance the academic and instructional mission of our schools, the law, and legal guidelines related to the separation of church and state, the richness and diversity of our population, and sensitivity to the rights and dignity of the individual, as they relate to the celebration of holidays.
- 5.0 The Scarborough School Department will offer to its faculty opportunities for professional development that address the law and legal guidelines, acknowledge the need for sensitivity when dealing with issues of religious belief and customs, and promotes open school/home communications in these matters.

Adopted: October 20, 1994

Revised: November 7, 2002

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLIDAYS REGULATIONS

- 1.0 The Board of Education approves the following regulations in support of celebrating holidays in its school system:
 - 1.1. Holidays, which have a religious origin, may be acknowledged in the public schools.
 - 1.2. The historical and contemporary values and the origin of those holidays may be explained in an unbiased and objective manner without sectarian indoctrination.
 - 1.3. Music, art, literature, and drama, having religious themes or basis, will be permitted as part of the curricula for school-sponsored activities and programs, if presented in an objective manner.
 - 1.3.a. The duration of such programs and activities, which should be linked to the school's curriculum, should not exceed a period of time equivalent to the academic value of the program or activity.
 - 1.3.b. Activities, including a party-like celebration, should not exceed one hour at the end of the session on the identified day.
 - 1.4. Symbols that are a part of a religion are permitted provided such symbols are displayed as examples of the cultural and religious heritage of the holiday and are temporary in nature.
 - 1.5. Symbols that are a part of religious holiday, but have acquired a secular meaning are permitted.
 - 1.6. Acknowledgement of a holiday will emphasize the historical, cultural, and social value of the holiday and the associated religion and will not be used to endorse any religion or holiday.

Adopted: October 20, 1994

Revised: November 7, 2002



SIoux FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policies and Regulations

NEPN Code: IMD

Instruction

School Observances and Ceremonies

Observance of Religious and Secular Holidays

The practice of the Sioux Falls School District shall be as follows:

1. Several holidays throughout the year which may have either or both a religious and a secular basis may be observed in the public schools. If observed in the classroom, the historical and contemporary values and the origin of religious/secular holidays must be explained in an unbiased and objective manner without sectarian indoctrination.
2. Music, art, literature, and drama having religious themes or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs if presented in a prudent and objective manner and as a traditional part of the cultural and religious/secular heritage of the particular holiday.
3. The use of religious/secular symbols such as a cross, menorah, crescent, Star of David, crèche, symbols of Native American religions, or other symbols that are part of a religious or secular holiday is permitted as a teaching aid or resource provided such symbols are displayed as an example of the cultural and religious/secular heritage of the holiday and are temporary in nature. Included, but not limited to, Christmas, Easter, Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, Yom Kippur, Eid Al-Fitr, Ramadan, Kwanzaa, St. Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Thanksgiving, and Halloween.
4. The District's calendar should be prepared so as to minimize conflicts with religious holidays of all faiths.

Dedications and Commencements

The practice of the Sioux Falls School District shall be as follows:

1. A dedication or commencement ceremony shall not contain prayers authorized, approved, or sponsored by the District or any of its representatives.
2. Because a baccalaureate service is traditionally religious in nature, it shall not be sponsored by the District.

RELATED POLICIES:

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| IHAL | Religion in the Schools and at School Activities |
| JJAB/JJAB-R | Limited Open Forum in Middle Schools and High Schools (6-12) |
| KF/KF-R | Community Use of School Facilities |
| KI | Visitors to Schools |

| Policy | | Board Action |
|----------|----------|--------------|
| adopted: | 01-08-01 | 29761 |
| amended: | 05-27-08 | 35062 |
| amended: | 04-09-12 | 36336 |



SIOUX FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policies and Regulations

NEPN Code: IHAL

Instruction

Religion in the Schools and at School Activities

Religion in the Curriculum

Religious institutions and orientations are central to human experience, past and present. An education excluding such a significant aspect would be incomplete. It is essential that the teaching *about* - and not *of* - religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner.

Therefore, the practice of the Sioux Falls School District shall be as follows:

1. The District supports the inclusion of religious literature, music, drama, and the arts in the curriculum and in school activities provided it is intrinsic to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively.
2. The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature, and history should be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies should never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs.
3. Student-initiated responses to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. Students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech, and debate unless the conduct or speech unreasonably interferes with the ability of school officials to maintain order and discipline.

Public Appearances of Student Groups in Music and the Arts

Student groups in music and the arts will be permitted to make public appearances in the community subject to the approval of the building principal following these guidelines:

1. Invitations may be accepted to perform before a variety of audiences within the community such as workshops, community service groups, conventions, and sectarian groups.
2. Performances may take place in a variety of locations including shopping centers, auditoriums, meeting halls, churches, and synagogues.
3. When performing before a sectarian audience, student groups representing the District shall not perform during, or immediately prior to or immediately following a religious service.

Prohibition of Religious Activity in Schools by School Personnel

1. School personnel shall not organize, provide leadership, or participate in student religious organizations, clubs, or functions at any time when acting in their official capacity on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities in any location.
2. School personnel shall not distribute religious literature in or through the schools or on school grounds except as part of academic study about religions.

RELATED POLICIES:

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| IMD | School Observances and Ceremonies |
| JJAB/JJAB-R | Limited Open Forum |
| KF/KF-R | Community Use of School Facilities |
| KI | Visitors to Schools |

| Regulation | Date | Board Action |
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| Policy | | |
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(formerly 6141.2)