

**TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION**

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to teach students about religion and its role as a vital force in the development of civilizations, as well as to foster a respect for religion and religious beliefs. In addition, the Board believes that it is the duty of the school to ensure that every student fully understands the principle of religious freedom that is part of this country's heritage.

To fulfill these acknowledged responsibilities, the Board encourages factual and objective teaching about religion. Instructional programs will be encouraged that

1. focus on the role that religion has played in history or in the development of a society or culture, and
2. educate students about the principle of religious liberty as one of the central elements of freedom and democracy.

Cross-Reference: 4810, Teaching About Controversial Issues  
4821, School Ceremonies and Observances  
4821-R, Cultural Diversity: Religion in the Schools

Reference: U.S. Constitution, First Amendment  
Education Law § 3210

Adopted: March 15, 1994