

TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION

Religious education is the responsibility of the home and church and within the district's schools shall remain the free choice of the individual, true to the American heritage and Constitution.

However, religion influences many areas of education, such as literature and history, and religion's role in civilization can, and should be, properly taught. Moreover, it is proper for teachers to emphasize the generally accepted moral and ethical principles of all religions and to provide information to and the opportunity for students to study the forms of various religions. In other words, it is proper for teachers to teach about religion as opposed to teaching sectarian beliefs, although study of the Bible and other sacred documents as literary forms may inform students concerning particular sectarian beliefs.

Teachers shall be permitted to expose students to information concerning religions and religious beliefs, but teachers shall not advocate, openly or covertly or by subtlety, a particular religion or religious belief.

Spiritual values are important in the development of a well-rounded individual, and development of well-rounded individuals is an encompassing goal of the district's educational programs and activities.

The Board will ensure that any instruction relating to religion within the District shall conform to applicable legal requirements.

Legal Reference:

RSA 194:15-a Lord's Prayer in Public Schools

Proposed: 04/17/00

Adopted: 05/15/00