

29.0 TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION

29.1 Cultural materials having a religious origin or basis may be utilized during the school year so long as the material to be used or studied is of educational value to the classes concerned and is appropriate to the curriculum being taught.

29.2 When information about religion is appropriately a part of course content it shall remain, as in any academic subject, in its normal perspective. Inclusion of sacred writings, music and arts in the educational program of the schools is to be based on their having independent educational merit. Subject to the ultimate authority of the Board of Education, inclusion of such course content shall generally be determined by the faculty. While explanation of religious belief may be called for, classes shall not be used for religious instruction.

29.3 Official public school groups shall not perform at events of religious worship. Public performances of music and the arts which include religious content shall rest on the independent and educational merits of the inclusion, including giving exposure to many cultures and religious expressions.

29.4 Music and religious themes, including Christmas carols, are accepted when studied and performed on a musical and/or cultural basis.

29.5 Prayer shall be prohibited as part of the normal school day's program.