

### **TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION**

Religious education is the responsibility of the home and church and within the District shall remain the free choice of the individual. The District must be neutral in matters of religion and will neither inhibit nor promote any particular religion or practices.

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 objectively 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 beliefs.

As used in this policy, "released time" means a period of time during which a student is excused from school to attend a course in religious instruction conducted by a private entity off school district property.

LEGAL REFS.: O.R.C. §§3313.601; 3313.6022

Adopted: August 12, 2014