

*Adopted:* 1974

*Saint Paul Public Schools Policy*

609.00

*Revised:* 12/4/1984; 10/21/1997; 2008

## **609.00 RELIGION**

1. The School District shall neither promote nor disparage any religious belief or non-belief. Instead, the School District encourages all students and employees to have appreciation for and tolerance of each other's views.
2. The School District supports the inclusion of religious music, art, drama and literature in the curriculum and in school activities provided it is intrinsic to the learning experience and is presented in an objective manner without sectarian indoctrination.
3. The history and contemporary values and the origin of various religions, holidays, customs and beliefs may be explained in an unbiased and nonsectarian manner.
4. To the extent possible, special school events, such as public meetings, hearings, and dedications, shall be scheduled at times which are not likely to conflict with observance of religious holidays.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to ensure that the study of religious materials, customs, beliefs and holidays in the School District is in keeping with the following guidelines:
  - The proposed activity must have a secular purpose;
  - The primary objective of the activity must be one that neither advances nor inhibits religion;
  - The activity must not foster excessive governmental relationships with religion.
2. The Superintendent is granted authority to develop and implement directives and guidelines for the purpose of providing further guidance relative to the teaching of materials related to religion.

**LEGAL REFERENCES:**

**CROSS REFERENCES:**