

Glenbard Township High School District 87

Policy 6:70 : Instruction

Teaching About Religions

The School District's curriculum may include the study of religions as they relate to geography, history, culture, and the development of various ethnic groups. The study of religions shall give neither preferential nor derogatory treatment to any single religious belief or to religion in general.

The study of religions shall be treated as an academic subject with no emphasis on the advancement or practice of religion.

LEGAL REF.: School District of Abington Twp v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963).

Allegheny County v. Pittsburgh ACLU, 446 A.2d 334, appeal after remand, 471

A.2d 28, cert. denied, 488 U.S. 815 (1989).

CROSS REF.: 6:40, 6:255

ADOPTED: December 8, 1997

REVIEWED: January 17, 2006

Glenbard Township High School District 87

Policy 6:70-R1 : Instruction

Administrative Procedure – Teaching About Religions

The following are guidelines for teaching about religions:

1. Instruction must be age appropriate to ensure that students will not believe the District is sponsoring religion.
2. Instruction may expose students to religious views, but may not impose any particular views.
3. Instruction must be informational, not indoctrinational.
4. Instruction must be academic, not devotional.
5. Instruction may study what people believe, but may not teach a student what to believe.
6. Instruction should strive for student awareness and tolerance of a variety of religions, but should not press for student acceptance of any one religion.

Within the parameters of the academic study of religion, teachers may display objects, artifacts, and symbols which give form to a variety of religious customs, beliefs, and expressions. Any classroom and school display presented as a part of religious study or holiday activities will meet the following criteria:

1. The display will be exhibited on a temporary basis.
2. The display will be constructed in a manner which presents no endorsement, favoritism, or promotion of a single religion or religious belief.
3. The display will include non-secular as well as secular symbols.
4. The display will include appropriate, descriptive labels attached to the symbols. Individual student participation in the preparation of a religious study display or a religious holiday display is strictly voluntary. If the display is a class activity, the student who wishes not to participate may be given an alternative assignment.

DATED: March 1999

REVIEWED: January 17, 2006

Glenbard Township High School District 87

Policy 6:80 : Instruction

Teaching About Controversial Issues

Discussion of controversial issues should be age-appropriate, serve an educational purpose, be consistent with the curriculum, and present a balanced view.

CROSS REF.: 6:40

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