

Religion and Education Policy

Adopted: September 17, 2015



Purpose

It is the policy of Wallace Stegner Academy (the “School”) to recognize, protect, and accommodate the rights of religious practice and expression guaranteed by state and federal laws and by the constitutions of Utah and the United States.

The purpose of this policy is to help School personnel protect and accommodate individual rights of conscience in the School.

Policy

The School’s Board of Directors expects School personnel to foster mutual understanding and respect for all individuals and beliefs. Study about religion is an important part of a complete education and is necessary to achieving an understanding of history, societies, and cultures throughout the world. School curricula – including activities, discussions, assignments, displays, and performances – may refer to religious thought and expression, provided such references are designed to achieve specific educational objectives.

School personnel should neither promote nor disparage any religious, agnostic or atheistic belief or religion in general. Teaching about religion should be objective, thus avoiding any implication that religious doctrines have the endorsement of school authority. School personnel should recognize that religious holidays are observed in various ways, or not observed at all, based upon the influence of ethnic tradition, family style, or religious conviction.

Secondary students may request to be excused or refrain from participating, in activities, discussions, and assignments that they feel would violate their rights of conscience or religious freedom. Such requests must be made in a timely manner to the appropriate authorities. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a minor student may also make a request for excusal on that student’s behalf. If focused on a specific activity, discussion, or assignment, and in accordance with Utah Code, State Board of Education Rules, and School Procedures, such requests will be granted routinely and without penalty.

The School’s Principal will adopt administrative procedures to implement this policy.