

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION
PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Instruction

6141.2-AR

RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS

A. Purpose and Scope

To provide information and guidance to staff, students, and parents regarding the recognition of religious beliefs and customs.

B. General

1. The regulation applies to instruction offered in grades TK-12.
2. Concerns or questions should be directed to the Assistant Superintendent - Educational Services.

C. Forms Used and Additional References

Religious Exemption Opt-Out Form

D. Procedures

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the following for the recognition of religious beliefs and customs in district schools:

1. The approach to religion is academic and not devotional
2. The goal is for student awareness of religion in historical and contemporary societies
3. The students may not be pressed to accept any one religion
4. The school may include the study of religion as part of the history-social science curriculum, but the practice of religions may not be sponsored
5. The students may be exposed to and educated about a diversity of religious views and beliefs, but a particular view or belief may not be imposed, nor may any one religion be promoted or denigrated

Staff shall make every effort to schedule one-time events, such as examinations, school-sponsored trips, special laboratories, picture-taking days, and class parties, to minimize conflicts with major religious holidays of all faiths such that no one faith is disproportionately impacted.

Programs and Exhibits

When school programs and exhibits are in any way related to instruction about religion or religious holidays, the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. The principal or designee shall ensure that school-sponsored programs are presented in an objective manner, consistent with Board policy.
2. The principal or designee shall be kept informed of the program's development.
3. Program or exhibit planners shall take into consideration the diverse religious faiths represented in the community, student body and staff.

Opt-Outs

When a parent/guardian submits a written request to opt the parent's/guardian's student out of instruction based on religious beliefs, customs, or practices, the request shall include the following:

1. The specific instructional content of which the student should be opted out
2. The specific religious belief(s), custom(s), and/or practice(s) with which the specific instructional content substantially interferes
3. How the specific instructional content substantially interferes with the specific religious belief(s), custom(s), and/or practice(s), including any grade level or individual student characteristics relevant to the opt-out request

As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall work with district legal counsel to evaluate each request and determine whether it shall be granted.

E. Reports Required

None

F. Record Retention

None

G. Responsible Administrative Unit

Educational Services Division

H. Approved by:

Dr. Olivia Yaung
Responsible Division Head

8/25/25
Date

Dr. Allan Mucerino
Superintendent

8/25/25
Date