

Religion Related Activities or Practices Procedures

1. The teaching about religion should be done with sensitivity to the feelings and beliefs of all students.
2. A student may decline to participate in a classroom activity that is contrary to his/her religious convictions.
3. Since non-curriculum-related student groups are permitted to meet on school premises immediately before or after school, and during lunch hour (but not during the instructional day), students shall be permitted to meet to discuss political, religious, philosophical or other content provided such group meetings are student-initiated and student-arranged.
4. A student may distribute religious literature under the same conditions that other literature may be distributed on the campus provided that such distribution does not intrude on the operation of the school.
5. Material of a religious nature distributed by an outside organization may not be distributed to students on school premises.
6. Assemblies that are principally devotional and/or serve a spiritual or religious purpose may not be conducted during the school day. Such activities may be conducted during non-school hours in the same manner as non-religious groups.
7. Musical, artistic and dramatic presentations which have a religious theme may be included in course work and programs on the basis of their particular artistic and educational value or traditional secular usage. They shall be presented in a neutral, non-devotional manner and be related to the objective of the instructional program.
8. A parent may request that a student be excused from attending school in observance of a religious holiday.
9. An invocation and/or benediction as part of commencement exercises may be honored in the spirit of accommodation.
10. Interested parents and students may plan and organize baccalaureate exercises provided that all planning and publicity are handled in the same manner as other non-school events.

Teaching about religion can be conducted but shall not:

1. Utilize instructional materials that promote or encourage non-religion, religion, religious viewpoints, religious groups, or religious activities;

Lynden School District No. 504
BOARD POLICY

No 2340P

2. Take the form of religious instruction, worship, exercise, or persuasion; or
3. Attack or promulgate religion, or the absence of religion, or any particular belief system; or
4. Question the religious belief, or absence of religious belief, of any student; or
5. Require a student to declare a religious preference.

Students, parents and staff who are aggrieved by practices or activities conducted in the school or district may register their concern with the building principal or district superintendent.

Date: May 18, 2000