

**RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS**

The Alexandria City School Board (Board) is neutral in matters of religion. This means that the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)

- assumes no role or responsibility for the religious training of any student and
- does not become involved in the religious belief, disbelief, or doubt of any student.

This neutrality does not preclude or hinder ACPS in fulfilling its responsibility to educate students to be tolerant and respectful of religious diversity. ACPS recognizes that one of its educational responsibilities is to advance the students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religion has played in the social, cultural, and historical development of civilization.

Therefore, ACPS approaches religion from an objective, curriculum-related perspective, encouraging all students and staff members to be aware of the diversity of beliefs and respectful of each other's religious and/or non- religious views. In that spirit of respect, students and staff members may be excused from participating in activities that are contrary to their religious beliefs.

The Board may authorize, as an elective in grades nine through 12 with appropriate credits towards graduation, a comparative religions class that focuses on the basic tenets, history, and religious observances and rites of world religions.

Adopted: January 9, 1997  
Amended: July 1, 2005  
Amended: March 12, 2015

Legal Ref: U.S. Const. amend. I  
Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-202.1

Cross Refs.: AC Nondiscrimination  
JB Nondiscrimination in Education

**RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS**

Commented [1]: With the modifications this is word for word the VSBA model policy.

The Alexandria City School Board (Board) ACPS) ~~is shall be~~ neutral in matters of religion. This means that ~~the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS):~~

- ~~a~~Assumes no role or responsibility for the religious training of any student; and
- ~~d~~Does not become involved in the religious belief, disbelief, or doubt of any student.

This neutrality does not preclude or hinder ACPS in fulfilling its responsibility to educate students to be tolerant and respectful of religious diversity. ACPS ~~also~~ recognizes that one of its educational responsibilities is to advance the students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religion has played in the social, cultural, and historical development of civilization.

Therefore, ACPS approaches religion from an objective, curriculum-related perspective, encouraging all students and staff members to be aware of the diversity of beliefs and respectful of each other's religious and/or non- religious views.

In that spirit of respect, students and staff members may be excused from participating in activities that are contrary to their religious beliefs.

~~The Alexandria City School Board~~ may authorize, as an elective in grades nine through 12 with appropriate credits towards graduation, a comparative religions class that focuses on the basic tenets, history, and religious observances and rites of world religions.

Commented [2]: model policy

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