1 2	RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS					
2 3 4		he Alexandria City School Board (Board) is neutral in matters of religion. This means that the lexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)				
5						
6	• assumes no role or responsibility for the religious training of any student and					
7 8	• does n	ot become involved in the religious belief, disbelief, or doubt of any student.				
9	This neutrality	y does not preclude or hinder ACPS in fulfilling its responsibility to educate students				
10		to be tolerant and respectful of religious diversity. ACPS recognizes that one of its educational				
11	responsibilities is to advance the students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religion has					
12	played in the social, cultural, and historical development of civilization.					
13						
14		CPS approaches religion from an objective, curriculum-related perspective,				
15	encouraging all students and staff members to be aware of the diversity of beliefs and respectful					
16	of each other's religious and/or non- religious views. In that spirit of respect, students and staff					
17	members may be excused from participating in activities that are contrary to their religious beliefs.					
18						
19	The Board may authorize, as an elective in grades nine through 12 with appropriate credits towards					
20	graduation, a comparative religions class that focuses on the basic tenets, history, and religious					
21 22	observances a	nd rites of world religions.				
22						
23 24	Adopted:	January 9, 1997				
25	Amended:	July 1, 2005				
26	Amended:	March 12, 2015				
27						
28						
29	Legal Ref:	U.S. Const. amend. I				
30						
31 32		Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-202.1				
33	Cross Refs.:	AC Nondiscrimination				
34		JB Nondiscrimination in Education				

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1	RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS		Commented [1]: With the modifications this is word for
2 3 4	The Alexandria City School Board (Board)ACPS) isshall be neutral in matters of religion. This means that the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS):		word the VSBA model policy.
5 6 7 8	 <u>a</u>Assumess no role or responsibility for the religious training of any student; and <u>dDoes do</u>es not become involved in the religious belief, disbelief, or doubt of any student. 		
9 10 11 12 13	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.		
14 15 16 17	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.		
18 19 20	In that spirit of respect, students and staff members may be excused from participating in activities that are contrary to their religious beliefs.		
21 22 23	The <u>Alexandria City School</u> -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
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Adopted: January 9, 1997 Amended: July 1, 2005 Amended: March 12, 2015		
31 32 33	Legal Ref: U.S. Const. amend. I Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-202.1		
34 35 36	Cross Refs.: AC Nondiscrimination JB Nondiscrimination in Education		

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS