

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: Policy IFI

**Responsible Office: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION/SCHOOL PERFORMANCE/ADVANCED STUDIES
AND PROGRAMS**

TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for teaching about religion in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

B. BACKGROUND

No student or staff member should feel his/her own beliefs or practices are being compromised or infringed upon in school.

C. DEFINITIONS

Religious Symbol – any object that suggests the existence of a Supreme Being or universal being, deity, or force.

D. PROCEDURES

1. Teachers should refer to AACPS Course Curricula to plan for instructional delivery about religion and religious topics as they relate to course standards.
2. Materials on religions for media centers, other resource facilities, and classrooms should be evaluated and selected according to criteria and procedures employed for approval of all other materials utilized in AACPS.
3. Factual and objective teaching about religion shall be distinguished from religious indoctrination which is prohibited by law in all Maryland public schools.
4. Religious symbols shall not be displayed for devotional purposes. However, religious symbols may be displayed as part of a broad cultural study (art, drama, etc.) and left on display only for the time their presence is necessary for the study.

5. Religious and nonreligious themes and symbols may be used in independent student initiated projects such as reports and class discussions as a mode of personal expression or in an informational capacity.

*Regulation History: Developed by Superintendent 10/22/14
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Note previous regulation history: None