

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Related Entries: IFI-RA

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

TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION

A. PURPOSE

To establish standards and expectations to teach about religion in Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

B. ISSUE

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) recognizes that religious institutions, ideas, and values helped shape the civilizations of the world, especially our own. A fully unbiased understanding of these civilizations is impossible without a thorough examination of information concerning religious influences. The part that religion has played in social and historical development of civilization is essential to the school curriculum and should not be avoided at any level of education.

The Board recognizes that teaching about religion does not compromise the principle of separation of church and state as safeguarded by the Constitution of the United States. Students are free to learn about religion and its role in the social and historical development of civilization.

C. POSITION

1. It is the responsibility of students and staff to respect the religious beliefs of others.
2. Being religiously neutral, the schools shall not promote any religion, shall not express opposition or hostility to religion, and shall not show preference for one religion over another.
3. There shall be no required participation in, or attendance at, any religious programs, prayers, or devotional instruction as part of a course of study.

D. IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.

Policy History: Adopted on 10/22/14

Note previous policy history: Replaces Policy 605.09, adopted 11/06/74, and revised 01 /17 /90.