

INSTRUCTION

Religious Expression

With respect to religious expression, the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides both freedom of religion and prohibition against the establishment of religion by government. The D.C. Everest Area School District, as a governmental agency, will be neutral with respect to religion and will not engage in any activity that advocates or disparages religion, religious beliefs, or non-beliefs. At the same time, the school district recognizes that students have the important right of religious expression. The district acknowledges the importance of understanding the role of religion within the context of curriculum and the use of religious works and symbols in relationship with society, literature, and the arts.

Schools are a place where religion and religious beliefs or non-beliefs will be treated with fairness, respect and neutrality. A balance will be sought between the student's right to express religious beliefs and the rights of other students to not be subject to involuntary religious recruitment, proselytizing, indoctrination, coercion or harassment.

The D.C. Everest Area School District upholds the first amendment when it protects the religious liberty rights of students of all religious faiths, as well as students who profess no religious faith.

Legal Ref.: Wisconsin Constitution-Article 1
United States Constitution 1st Amendment
U.S. Department of Education Guidelines Regarding Religious Expression in the Schools
(8/95)
PI 41 Wisconsin Administrative Code

Policy Adopted: 5/23/06
Policy Revised
KAG:ems

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