

## FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**Instruction****RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS**

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure the following for the recognition of religious beliefs and customs in County Superintendent-operated schools:

1. The approach to religion is academic and not devotional.
2. The goal is for student awareness of religion in historical and contemporary societies.
3. The students may not be pressed to accept any one religion.
4. The school may include the study of religion as part of the history-social science curriculum, but the practice of religions may not be sponsored.
5. The students may be exposed to and educated about a diversity of religious views and beliefs, but a particular view or belief may not be imposed, nor may any one religion be promoted or denigrated.

Staff shall make every effort to schedule one-time events, such as examinations, school-sponsored trips, special laboratories, picture-taking days and class parties, to minimize conflicts with major religious holidays of all faiths.

Programs and Exhibits

When school programs and exhibits are in any way related to instruction about religion or religious holidays, the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. The lead site administrator or designee shall ensure that school-sponsored programs are presented in an objective manner, consistent with County Superintendent/County Board policy.
2. The lead site administrator or designee shall be kept informed of the program's development.
3. Program or exhibit planners shall take into consideration the diverse religious faiths represented in the community, student body and staff.

Adopted: 10/20/2011

Amended: 11/19/2020, 11/21/2024