

## RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

The public school, in our pluralistic society, is committed to teach mutual understanding, brotherhood and respect for all individuals and all beliefs. In pursuit of this, the school curriculum should take cognizance of the fact that holidays are observed differently by different groups. However, since religious belief and disbelief are personal matters not associated with governmental authority in our form of government and since some religious holidays are also historically and culturally significant to our way of life, the following will serve as guidelines for observances of religious holidays in the school district:

The purposes and objectives of any religious holiday observance shall be related to the historical and cultural effect of that day or days and such observance will remain secular.

Formal religious services connected with a holiday are not to be conducted.

Displays of religious objects, symbols, art, etc., and the presentation of religious music as an integral part of the historical and cultural aspect of the curriculum will be allowed.

Teaching about religious holidays or religion in general as part of the total curriculum should be objective, should avoid any doctrinal impact and should avoid any implications that religious doctrines have the support of school authority.

The parents shall have the right to determine when their children will be absent from school because of religious observance and students will not be penalized or deprived of make-up opportunities for such absences or pressured to choose between school attendance and religious observance.