

Dickson County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Recognition of Religious Beliefs, Customs & Holidays	Descriptor Code: 4.803	Issued Date: 04/26/12
		Rescinds: 4.9020	Issued: 11/20/97

1 No religious belief or nonbelief shall be promoted by the school system or its employees, and none
2 shall be belittled. All students and staff members shall be tolerant of each other's views. The school
3 system shall use its opportunity to foster understanding and mutual respect among students and parents,
4 whether it involves race, culture, economic background or religious beliefs.¹ In that spirit of tolerance,
5 students and staff members shall be excused from participating in practices which are contrary to their
6 religious beliefs.

7 **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

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10 Observance of religious holidays² shall be as follows:

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12 1. The several holidays throughout the year which have both a religious and a secular basis may
13 be observed in the public schools;³
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15 2. The historical and contemporary values and the origin of religious holidays may be explained in
16 an unbiased and objective manner without sectarian indoctrination;
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18 3. Music, art, literature and drama having religious themes or basis are permitted as part of the
19 curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs if presented in a prudent and objective
20 manner and as a traditional part of the cultural and religious heritage of the particular holiday;
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22 4. The use of religious symbols that are part of a religious holiday are permitted as a teaching aid
23 or resource, provided such symbols are displayed as an example of the cultural and religious
24 heritage of the holiday and are temporary in nature; and
- 25
26 5. The school district's calendar shall be prepared so as to minimize conflicts with religious holidays
27 of all faiths.

28 29 30 31 32 Legal References:

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34 1. TCA 49-6-2901-2906; State Board of Education Guidelines-
35 Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance
- 36 2. *Florey v. Sioux Falls*, 619 F. 2d 1311 (1980);
37 *Washegesic v. Bloomindale Public Schools* 813 F. Supp. 559 (1993)
- 38 3. TCA 49-6-3016

Cross References:

39
40 Student Equal Access 4.802
41 Staff Rights and Responsibilities 5.600
Attendance 6.200