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*Rescinds Policy Number: IKC*

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Religious education is the responsibility of the home and church. Within the district's schools, religious preference shall remain ~~in~~ the free choice of the individual.

However, religion influences many areas of education, such as literature and history, and religion's role in civilization can, and should be properly taught. Moreover, it is proper for teachers to emphasize the generally accepted moral and ethical principles of all religions and to provide information to and the opportunity for students to study the forms of various religions. In other words, it is proper for teachers to teach about religion as opposed to teaching sectarian beliefs, although study of the Bible and other sacred documents as literary forms may inform students concerning particular sectarian beliefs.

Teachers shall be permitted to expose students to information concerning religions and religious beliefs, but teachers shall maintain a religiously neutral role as assigned to public school employees. If instruction or selected educational activities are considered inconsistent with constitutional interpretations and any other applicable legal standards, the activity will not be permitted in the school district. Questions concerning the constitutionality of activities should be forwarded to the superintendent and board attorney for clarification.

Legal Reference: U.S. Constitution, amendment I; Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. & 4071-4074; N.C. Constitution. Article I, & 14; G.S. 115c-36, -47