

CLASSIFICATION: Instruction**ADOPTED: 11/8/95****REVISED:****SUBJECT: Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs PAGE: 1 of 1**

Instructional support services provided to school districts in San Diego County and in schools and programs operated by the County Superintendent of Schools may include references to religion and may use religious literature, art, music, symbols, and related media to illustrate the subject matter being taught. Such instruction should be designed to broaden students' understanding of other religions and recognition of others' rights to practice their religion.

Factual and objective teaching about religion must be distinguished from religious indoctrination, which is clearly forbidden in public schools. Religion may be taught from an historical, cultural, sociological, or other educational perspective, but must not favor the beliefs and customs of any particular religion or sect over any others.

Staff shall be highly sensitive to its obligation not to interfere with or relate one's personal opinions or value judgment about religion while teaching about religion. School-sponsored programs should not be, nor have the effect of being, religiously oriented or a religious celebration.

Instruction which is contrary to a student's religious beliefs and teachings may be optional for that student, in accordance with the Education Code or at the discretion of the County Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

The County Board of Education recognizes that holidays demonstrate the diversity and rich heritage of our community members. San Diego County Office of Education facilities and classroom decorations and costumes may express seasonal themes that are not religious in nature.