

RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS

The Patrick County School Board is neutral in matters of religion. This means that the Patrick County schools

- assume no role or responsibility for the religious training of any student and
- do not become involved in the religious belief, disbelief or doubt of any student.

This neutrality does not preclude or hinder the Patrick County school division in fulfilling its responsibility to educate students to be tolerant and respectful of religious diversity. The division recognizes that one of its educational responsibilities is to advance the students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religion has played in the social, cultural and historical development of civilization.

Therefore, the division approaches religion from an objective, curriculum-related perspective, encouraging all students and staff members to be aware of the diversity of beliefs and respectful of each other's religious and/or non-religious views. In that spirit of respect, students and staff members may be excused from participating in activities that are contrary to their religious beliefs

The School Board may authorize, as an elective in grades nine through 12 with appropriate credits toward graduation, a comparative religion class that focuses on the basic tenets, history, and religious observances and rites of world religions.

Adopted: September 8, 1997

Revised: November 10, 2004

April 7, 2005

August 10, 2006

March 13, 2014

Legal Refs.: U.S. Const. amend. I.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-202.1.