

Downey Unified School District

INSTRUCTION

CURRICULUM - TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION

AR 3122.3

It is the policy of the Board of Education that no sectarian or denominational doctrine shall be taught or instruction thereon be permitted directly or indirectly in the schools of the District.

This policy applies equally to all forms of religious belief irrespective of whether they embody a belief in the existence of God. The teaching of atheism or agnosticism is prohibited, if by the words "teaching of" is meant the teaching of a doctrine with a view toward obtaining an acceptance as to the truth of that doctrine.

Statements which advocate, tend to advocate, or implant in pupils' minds a preference for atheism or agnosticism or which reflect unfavorably upon any particular religion, upon all religions, or upon any religious creed are unlawful and prohibited.

Our schools may teach about religion. Teachers should make clear the contributions of religion to our civilization through art, history, ethics, and morals.

The Board of Education is confident that the teachers of this District are competent to differentiate between teaching about religion and conducting a compulsory worship service. This point of view, we believe, is in accordance with the tradition handed down by our forefathers and reaffirmed by the United States Supreme Court.