



SECTION: PROGRAMS

POLICY: 140

TITLE: RELIGION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ORIGINAL: November 28, 1983

CURRENT REVISION:

LAST REVIEWED BY THE

COMMITTEE: December 9, 2020

I. PURPOSE

- A. The Wissahickon Board of School Directors is cognizant of its legal and moral responsibility to encourage and support those actions on the part of parents, staff and students of the Wissahickon School District, which will contribute to the continued improvement of human relations in our schools.
- B. The Board fully subscribes to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 P.S., Section 952; that states, “the practice or policy of discrimination against individuals or groups by reason of their race, color, religious creed, ancestry, handicap or disability, use of guide dogs because of blindness of the user, age, sex or national origin is a matter of concern of the Commonwealth. Such discrimination foments domestic strife and unrest, threatens the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of the Commonwealth and undermines the foundations of a free democratic state.”
- C. In addition, the Board will uphold the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States concerning the place of religion in the public schools.

II. DEFINITIONS

None.

III. POLICY

- A. As a public educational institution, the Wissahickon School District has basic responsibility to develop in students an understanding of their diverse culture, historical and national heritages. Therefore, three distinct areas related to each other and to religion in the public schools are recognized:
- B. The role in literature, history, the humanities, and the arts;
- C. The part played by religion in establishing and maintaining the moral and ethical values that schools seek to develop and transmit for a free democratic society.
- D. An understanding of the relationship between civil government and religious freedom in order to prepare youth for citizenship in a pluralistic society.

IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

None.

V. REFERENCES

None.