

***DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
INSTRUCTION***

***BOARD POLICY 6141: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION***

The Governing Board accepts responsibility for establishing what students should learn. The Board shall adopt a district curriculum, which reflects district philosophy, responds to student needs and abilities, and is consistent with the requirements of law. Insofar as possible, this curriculum shall also reflect the desires of the community and the needs of society as a whole.

The Board considers curriculum improvement to be a top priority for the district. Curriculum development and evaluation will therefore be an ongoing process in the district, routinely supported by planned allocations of resources and staff time.

The Board may establish a curriculum review cycle for comparing each area of the curriculum against state model curriculum standards and Board policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures, which ensure that the curriculum development and evaluation process includes input from teachers, administrators, students and parents/guardians from all grade levels, disciplines, schools, special programs and categories of students. The selection and evaluation of instructional materials shall be coordinated with the curriculum development and evaluation process.

The Superintendent or designee shall keep the Board informed about student interest and achievement in each area of the curriculum. The Superintendent or designee also shall facilitate the Board's efforts to discuss its findings with district staff and students before adopting the district curriculum.

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**Legal Reference:**

EDUCATION CODE

221.5 Equal opportunity without regard to sex  
35160 Authority of governing boards  
35160.1 Broad authority of school districts  
51050-51057 Enforcement of courses of study  
51200-51263 Required courses of study, especially  
51225.3 Requirements for high school graduation  
51500-51540 Prohibited instruction  
51720-51879.9 Authorized classes and courses of instruction  
52001-52049 Improvement of elementary and secondary education  
52060-52067 American Indian Early Childhood Education Program  
52160-52178 Bilingual-Bicultural Act  
52200-52212 Mentally gifted and talented pupil program  
52300-52414 Vocational education  
54000-54041 Programs for disadvantaged pupils  
54100-54145 Miller-Unruh Act of 1965  
56000-56865 Special education programs

GOVERNMENT CODE

3543.2 Scope of representation

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4000-4091 School improvement programs  
4304-4320 Bilingual education programs  
4400-4426 Improvement of elementary and secondary education

**Management Resources:**

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

123.87 Curriculum Review, Improvement and Implementation, CIL:87/8-9

**DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
INSTRUCTION**

**BOARD POLICY 6141.2 (was BP 6020):**

**RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS**

The Board of Trustees recognizes that students' education would be incomplete without an understanding of the role that religion has played in society. As appropriate for a particular unit of study, teachers may objectively discuss the influences of various religions, using religious works and symbols to illustrate their relationship with culture, literature or the arts. The Board expects that such instruction will identify principles common to all religions and foster respect for the diversity of religions and customs of the world.

In order to respect each student's individual right to freedom of religious practice, religious indoctrination is clearly forbidden in the public schools. Instruction about religion shall not promote or denigrate the beliefs or customs of any particular religion or sect, nor should a preference be shown for one religious viewpoint over another. Staff members shall be highly sensitive to their obligation not to interfere with the religious development of any student in whatever tradition the student embraces.

Staff shall not endorse, encourage or solicit religious or anti-religious expression or activities among students during class time. As part of their official duties, staff shall not lead students in prayer or other religious activities. However, staff shall not prohibit or discourage any student from praying or otherwise expressing his/her religious belief as long as this does not disrupt the classroom.

Students may express their beliefs about religion in their homework, artwork and other class work if the expression is germane to the assignment. Such work shall be judged by ordinary academic standards.

While teaching about religious holidays is a permissible part of the educational program, celebrating religious holidays is not allowed in the public schools. School-sponsored programs shall not be, nor have the effect of being, religiously oriented or a religious celebration. School and classroom decorations may express seasonal themes that are not religious in nature.

Music, art, literature or drama programs having religious themes are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs if presented in an objective manner and as a traditional part of the cultural and religious heritage.

The use of religious symbols that are part of a religious holiday is permitted as a teaching aid or resource provided that such symbols are displayed as an example of cultural and religious heritage of the holiday and are temporary in nature.

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**Legal Reference:**

EDUCATION CODE

38130-38138 Civic Center Act

46014 Absences for religious purposes

51511 Religious matters properly included in courses of study

51938 Right of parent/guardian to excuse from sexual health instruction

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

4071-4074 Equal Access Act

6061 School prayer

7904 School prayer

COURT DECISIONS

Lassonde v. Pleasanton Unified School District, (2003, 9<sup>th</sup> Cir.) 320 F.3d 979

Cole v. Oroville Union High School District, (2000, 9<sup>th</sup> Cir.) 228 F.3d 1092

Lemon v. Kurtzman, (1971) 403 U.S. 602

**Management Resources:**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, February 2003

Religion in the Public Schools: A Joint Statement of Current Law, April 1995

WEB SITES

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

***DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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***ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION TO BOARD POLICY 6141.2 (was BP 6020):  
RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS***

Staff shall make every effort to avoid scheduling examinations, school-sponsored trips, special laboratories, picture-taking days and class parties, to minimize conflicts with major religious holidays.

**Programs and Exhibits**

When school programs and exhibits are in any way related to instruction about religion or religious holidays, the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. The principal or designee shall ensure that school-sponsored programs are presented in an objective manner, consistent with Board policy.
2. The principal or designee shall be kept informed of the program's development and shall participate in the planning process.
3. Program planners shall take into consideration the diverse religious faiths represented in the community, student body and staff, and shall promote a balance that reflects the diversity in the community. Special school events, assemblies, concerts and programs must be designed to further the Board-approved curriculum and may not focus on any one religion or religious observance. Religious music may be included in school events, but the music must be included because of its educational value. Special school events must not promote any particular religion or become a forum for religious devotion.

The use of religious symbols is permissible as a teaching aide or resource. Religious symbols may be displayed on a temporary basis provided that the symbols that are displayed are examples of the cultural and religious heritage of the holiday. Symbols of religious holidays which have acquired secular meaning, such as Christmas trees and dreidels are permissible if these symbols are displayed on a short term basis (48 hours or less) and must further the Board-approved secular curriculum.

In designing holiday programs, staff may include religious music/drama, but the music/drama must be included only because of its secular educational value. Holiday programs must not promote or denigrate any religion, serve as a religious celebration, or become a forum for religious devotion. Students who participate in holiday concerts may not be required to wear specialized attire that suggests or advocates any religion or holiday celebration.

**DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**BOARD POLICY 6141.6: MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION**

To foster intercultural understanding, communication and respect in an increasingly diverse society, curriculum and instruction at all grade levels shall reflect the perspectives and experiences of various cultural, ethnic, racial and social groups. The Governing Board desires that multicultural education be integrated across the curriculum into as many subjects as possible rather than providing isolated lessons on different cultures.

The district's comprehensive multicultural education program shall recognize the contributions of different groups of people to the history, life and culture of the local community, California, the United States and the world. It may include, but not be limited to, instruction about the languages, cultural characteristics, significant events and individuals, and social, political and economic conditions of various ethnic groups.

While recognizing the unique aspects of different cultures and peoples, multicultural education shall also emphasize commonalities and challenge the stereotypes and biases that inhibit intergroup respect and understanding. Multicultural education also shall be designed to contribute to the personal development of students through greater self-understanding, positive self-concept and pride in one's ethnic identity.

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**Legal Reference:**

**EDUCATION CODE**

44560 *Inservice preparation in ethnic backgrounds*

60040 *Portrayal of cultural and racial diversity*

**Management Resources:**

**WEB SITES**

*California Arts Project: [www.ucop.edu/tcap](http://www.ucop.edu/tcap)*