

## RELIGION IN SCHOOL

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board is neutral in matters of religion. This means that the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

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

This neutrality does not preclude or hinder the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in fulfilling its responsibility to educate students to be tolerant and respectful of religious diversity. The school 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 school 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 Regional 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: August 15, 2019

Amended: August 19, 2021

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

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