

Religion and Education Policy

Adopted: September 17, 2015

Revised: March 21, 2024

Revised: December 17, 2025

Revised: August 5, 2026



Purpose

It is the policy of Wallace Stegner Academy (the "School") to recognize, protect, and accommodate the rights of religious practice and expression guaranteed by state and federal laws and by the constitutions of Utah and the United States.

The purpose of this policy is to help School personnel protect and accommodate individual religious belief and rights of conscience in the School.

Policy

The School's Board of Directors expects School personnel to foster mutual understanding and respect for all individuals and beliefs. Study about religion is an important part of a complete education and is necessary to achieving an understanding of history, societies, and cultures throughout the world. School curricula – including activities, discussions, assignments, displays, and performances – may refer to religious thought and expression, provided such references are designed to achieve specific educational objectives.

School personnel should neither promote nor disparage any religious, agnostic, or atheistic belief or religion in general. Teaching about religion should be objective, thus avoiding any implication that religious doctrines have the endorsement of School authority. School personnel should recognize that religious holidays are observed in various ways, or not observed at all, based upon the influence of ethnic tradition, family style, or religious conviction.

The School shall ensure that:

- (a) a student may express the student's beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written or oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious perspective of the student's submissions; and
- (b) home and classroom work is:
 - (i) not penalized or rewarded on the basis of religious perspective; and
 - (ii) judged by ordinary academic standards of substance, relevance, and other legitimate pedagogical objectives; and
- (c) notification of the constitutional freedoms described in this Policy is provided to school officials, employees, and students.

Students may refrain from participation in any aspect of school that violates a religious belief or right of conscience of the student or of the student's parent or guardian.

The School shall not, in any aspect of school:

- (a) require or incentivize a student to affirm or deny the student's or the student's parent or guardian's religious belief or right of conscience;
- (b) engage a student in a practice that violates or is contrary to the student's or the student's parent or guardian's religious belief or right of conscience; or
- (c) penalize or discriminate against a student for refraining from participation due to the student's or the student's parent or guardian's religious belief or right of conscience.

A student's parent or guardian may waive the student's participation in any aspect of school (e.g., activities, discussions, and assignments) that the parent or guardian feels would violate the parent or guardian's or student's right of conscience or religious belief. Such waivers must be communicated in a timely manner to the appropriate School authorities.

The Chief Executive Officer(s) shall establish administrative procedures to implement this policy.