

SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

Observances Connected with Religious Beliefs

The Arlington Public Schools, in compliance with the Constitution of the United States, shall allow no ceremony, practice or observance which would promote any or all religions.

In so doing, however, we distinguish between the observance of religions, which is forbidden, and the study of religions, which is to be encouraged so long as it avoids any implication that religious doctrines have the support of school authorities.

It is the duty of the public schools in our pluralistic society to promote understanding of the heritage and beliefs of all. Among opportunities throughout the year, religious holidays may serve as occasions to increase students' appreciation and awareness of the important effect that religion and religious holidays have had upon the art, music, drama, literature, commerce and folkways of our country.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:1A, 71:1B