

Under the Constitution of the United States, Pojoaque Valley Schools may neither actively sponsor nor interfere with religious expression. When appropriate within the curriculum, the subject of religious belief can provide a basis for schools to teach students about various belief systems and their current and historical impact on human culture, history, literature and art. The non-religious study of religions also may allow schools to play a vital role in instilling understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect among people of different backgrounds.

It is the policy of the Board not to prevent, or otherwise deny participation in, constitutionally protected prayer or religious expression in the District's schools, consistent with guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education in implementing the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act 20 U.S.C. § 7904 and applicable judicial decisions interpreting the religion clauses of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This policy supersedes any other board policy to the extent of any inconsistency.

Reference: NMSA 1978, § 22-13-15.