

SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

The school district will continue school ceremonies and observances which have become a tradition and a custom to the educational program. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion.

Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance, or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reasons, in compliance with board policy.

Legal Reference: U.S. Const. Amend. I.  
Lemon v. Kurtzman, 403 U.S. 602, 91 S.Ct. 2105 (1971).  
Graham v. Central Community School District of Decatur County, 608 F. Supp. 531 (Iowa 1985).  
Iowa Code §279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference: 603 Instructional Curriculum  
604.5 Religion-Based Exclusion From A School Program

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