



Chico Unified School District

1163 East Seventh Street, Chico, CA 95928-5999
(530) 891-3000

**Administrative
Regulation:**

#6141.2

Section: 6000

Instruction

Page 1 of 3

RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS

Staff shall make every effort to schedule one-time events, such as examinations, district-sponsored trips, special laboratories, picture-taking days and class parties, to minimize conflicts with major religious holidays of all faiths such that no one faith is disproportionately impacted.

Programs and Exhibits

When district programs and exhibits are in any way related to instruction about religion or religious holidays, the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. The principal or designee shall ensure that district-sponsored programs are presented in an objective manner, consistent with the accompanying Board policy.
2. The principal or designee shall be kept informed of the program's development.
3. Program or exhibit planners shall take into consideration the diverse religious faiths represented in the community, student body and staff.

Opt-Outs

When a parent/guardian submits a written request to opt the parent's/guardian's student out of instruction based on religious beliefs, customs, or practices, the request shall include the following:

1. The specific instructional content of which the student should be opted out.
2. The specific religious belief(s), custom(s), and/or practice(s) with which the specific instructional content substantially interferes.
3. How the specific instructional content substantially interferes with the specific religious belief(s), custom(s), and/or practice(s), including any grade level or individual student characteristics relevant to the opt-out request.

As necessary, the Superintendent or designee may work with district legal counsel to evaluate each opt-out request and determine whether it shall be granted.

Policy Reference Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

State	Description
Ed. Code 38130-38139	<u>Civic Center Act</u>
Ed. Code 46014	<u>Absences for religious purposes</u>
Ed. Code 51240	<u>Excuse from instruction due to religious beliefs</u>
Ed. Code 51511	<u>Religious matters properly included in courses of study</u>

Regulation Approved: EAC 5/23/07; SAC 5/25/07; 9/14/26



Chico Unified School District

1163 East Seventh Street, Chico, CA 95928-5999
(530) 891-3000

Administrative
Regulation:

#6141.2

Section: 6000

Instruction

Page 2 of 3

State	Description
Ed. Code 51930-51939	<u>California Healthy Youth Act</u>
Federal	Description
20 USC 4071-4074	Equal Access Act
20 USC 6061	<u>School prayer</u>
20 USC 7904	<u>School prayer</u>
Management Resources	Description
California Department of Education Publication	<u>Appendix F history social science framework for California public schools</u>
Court Decision	<u>Mahmoud v. Taylor (2025) 606 U.S. ____ (2025 WL 1773627)</u>
Court Decision	<u>Florey v. Sioux Falls (1980) 619 F.2d 1311</u>
Court Decision	<u>Fellowship of Christian Athletes v. San Jose Unified School District Board of Education (2023) 82 F.4th 664</u>
Court Decision	<u>Kennedy v. Bremerton (2022) 142 S.Ct. 2407</u>
Court Decision	<u>Cole v. Oroville Union High School District (2000, 9th Cir.) 228 F.3d 1092</u>
Court Decision	<u>Lassonde v. Pleasanton Unified School District (2003, 9th Cir.) 320 F.3d 979</u>
Court Decision	<u>Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971) 403 U.S. 602</u>
U.S. Department of Education Publication	<u>Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, February 2026</u>
Website	<u>CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services</u>
Website	<u>California Department of Education</u>
Website	<u>CSBA</u>
Website	<u>U.S. Department of Education</u>
Cross References	
Code	Description
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
1325	Advertising And Promotion
1330	Use Of School Facilities
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5113	Absences And Excuses
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
5132	Dress And Grooming
5138	Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation



Chico Unified School District

1163 East Seventh Street, Chico, CA 95928-5999
(530) 891-3000

**Administrative
Regulation:**

#6141.2

Section: 6000

Instruction

Page 3 of 3

Code	Description
5141.31	<i>Immunizations</i>
5145.2	<i>Freedom Of Speech/Expression</i>
5145.6	<i>Parent/Guardian Notifications</i>
6111	<i>School Calendar</i>
6115	<i>Ceremonies And Observances</i>
6142.8	<i>Comprehensive Health Education</i>
6142.93	<i>Science Instruction</i>
6142.94	<i>History-Social Science Instruction</i>
6143	<i>Courses Of Study</i>
6144	<i>Controversial Issues</i>
6145.5	<i>Student Organizations And Equal Access</i>
6145.8	<i>Assemblies And Special Events</i>
6154	<i>Homework/Makeup Work</i>
6161.1	<i>Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials</i>
6161.11	<i>Supplementary Instructional Materials</i>
6176	<i>Weekend/Saturday Classes</i>