

West's Annotated Indiana Code
Title 20. Education
Article 33. Students: General Provisions
Chapter 12. Indiana Student Religious Civil Liberties

IC 20-33-12-3

20-33-12-3 Student expression of beliefs

Effective: July 1, 2017

[Currentness](#)

Sec. 3. Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions. Homework and classroom assignments must be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the public school. Students may not be penalized or rewarded on account of the religious content of their work. If an assignment requires a student's viewpoint to be expressed in course work, artwork, or other written or oral assignments, a public school shall not penalize or reward a student on the basis of religious content or a religious viewpoint. In such an assignment, a student's academic work that expresses a religious viewpoint shall be evaluated based on ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance to the course curriculum or requirements of the course work or assignment.

Credits

As added by [P.L.220-2017, SEC.2](#), eff. July 1, 2017.

I.C. 20-33-12-3, IN ST 20-33-12-3

The statutes and Constitution are current through all legislation enacted by the 2019 First Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly.

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West's Annotated Mississippi Code
Title 37. Education
Chapter 12. Mississippi Student Religious Liberties Act of 2013

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-12-5

§ 37-12-5. Religious expression in class assignments

Currentness

Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions. Homework and classroom assignments must be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school district. Students may not be penalized or rewarded on account of the religious content of their work. If an assignment requires a student's viewpoint to be expressed in coursework, artwork or other written or oral assignments, a public school shall not penalize or reward a student on the basis of religious content or a religious viewpoint. In such an assignment, a student's academic work that expresses a religious viewpoint shall be evaluated based on ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance to the course curriculum or requirements of the coursework or assignment.

Credits

Added by [Laws 2013, Ch. 334 \(S.B. No. 2633\)](#), § 3, eff. July 1, 2013.

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-12-5, MS ST § 37-12-5

The Statutes and Constitution are current with laws from the 2019 Regular Session effective upon passage as approved through January 1, 2020. Some statute sections may be more current, see credits for details. The statutes are subject to changes provided by the Joint Legislative Committee on Compilation, Revision and Publication of Legislation.

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Vernon's Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated
Education Code (Refs & Annos)
Title 2. Public Education (Refs & Annos)
Subtitle E. Students and Parents
Chapter 25. Admission, Transfer, and Attendance (Refs & Annos)
Subchapter E. Student Expression of Religious Viewpoints

V.T.C.A., Education Code § 25.153

§ 25.153. Religious Expression in Class Assignments

Effective: June 8, 2007

[Currentness](#)

Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions. Homework and classroom assignments must be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school district. Students may not be penalized or rewarded on account of the religious content of their work.

Credits

Added by [Acts 2007, 80th Leg., ch. 261, § 2, eff. June 8, 2007](#).

V. T. C. A., Education Code § 25.153, TX EDUC § 25.153

Current through the end of the 2019 Regular Session of the 86th Legislature

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West's Tennessee Code Annotated
Title 49. Education
Chapter 6. Elementary and Secondary Education
Part 18. Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act

T. C. A. § 49-6-1804

§ 49-6-1804. Homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments; beliefs about religion

Effective: April 10, 2014

[Currentness](#)

Students may express their written beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of the student's submissions. Homework and classroom assignments shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate academic concerns identified by the LEA. Students may not be penalized or rewarded based on the religious content of the student's work.

Credits

2014 Pub.Acts, c. 654, § 2, eff. April 10, 2014.

T. C. A. § 49-6-1804, TN ST § 49-6-1804

Current through end of the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the 111th Tennessee General Assembly.

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West's Annotated Code of Virginia
Title 22.1. Education (Refs & Annos)
Chapter 13. Programs, Courses of Instruction and Textbooks (Refs & Annos)
Article 1. Programs and Courses of Instruction Generally (Refs & Annos)

VA Code Ann. § 22.1-203.3

§ 22.1-203.3. Religious viewpoint expression; student expression

Effective: July 1, 2008

[Currentness](#)

Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions. Home and classroom work shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school.

Credits

[Acts 2008, c. 859.](#)

VA Code Ann. § 22.1-203.3, VA ST § 22.1-203.3

The statutes and Constitution are current through End of the 2019 Regular Session.

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Code of Alabama

Title 16. Education. (Refs & Annos)

Chapter 1. General Provisions. (Refs & Annos)

Ala.Code 1975 § 16-1-20.5

§ 16-1-20.5. Protection of student religious liberties.

Currentness

- (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the “Alabama Student Religious Liberties Act of 2015.”
- (b) A public local board of education may not discriminate against students or parents on the basis of a religious viewpoint or religious expression. A local board of education shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the local board of education treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.
- (c) Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions. Homework and classroom assignments shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the local board of education. Students may not be penalized or rewarded on account of the religious content of their work. If an assignment requires a student's viewpoint to be expressed in coursework, artwork, or other written or oral assignments, a public school may not penalize or reward a student on the basis of religious content or a religious viewpoint. In such an assignment, a student's academic work that expresses a religious viewpoint shall be evaluated based on ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance to the course curriculum or requirements of the coursework or assignment.
- (d)(1) Students in public schools may pray or engage in religious activities or religious expression before, during, and after the school day in the same manner and to the same extent that students may engage in nonreligious activities or expression. Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, “see you at the pole” gatherings, or other religious gatherings before, during, and after school to the same extent that students are permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and groups. Religious groups shall be given the same access to school facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups without discrimination based on the religious content of the students' expression. If student groups that meet for nonreligious activities are permitted to advertise or announce meetings of the groups, the local board of education may not discriminate against groups that meet for prayer or other religious speech. A local board of education may disclaim school sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events in a manner that neither favors nor disfavors groups that meet to engage in prayer or religious speech.
- (2) Students in public schools may wear clothing, accessories and jewelry that display religious messages or religious symbols in the same manner and to the same extent that other types of clothing, accessories, and jewelry that display messages or symbols are permitted.
- (e) In order to ensure that a local board of education does not discriminate against a student's publicly stated voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, and to eliminate any actual or perceived affirmative school sponsorship or attribution to the

local board of education of a student's expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, each local board of education shall adopt a policy governing voluntary religious expression in its schools.

(f) This section shall not be construed to authorize this state or any of its political subdivisions to do either of the following:

- (1) Require any person to participate in prayer or in any other religious activity.
- (2) Violate the constitutional rights of any person.

(g) This section shall not be construed to limit the authority of any public school to do any of the following:

- (1) Maintain order and discipline on the campus of the public school in a content and viewpoint neutral manner.
- (2) Protect the safety of students, employees, and visitors of the public school.
- (3) Adopt and enforce policies and procedures regarding student speech at school provided that the policies and procedures do not violate the rights of students as guaranteed by the United States and Alabama Constitutions and laws.

(h) This section shall apply to all religions. It shall not be construed as establishing a particular religion nor as prohibiting the free exercise of a particular religion.


(i) This section shall apply beginning with the 2015-16 school year.

Credits

([Act 2015-129](#), p. 374, §§ 1-9.)

Ala. Code 1975 § 16-1-20.5, AL ST § 16-1-20.5

Current through Act 2019-540.

 KeyCite Yellow Flag - Negative Treatment
Proposed Legislation

Vernon's Annotated Missouri Statutes
Title XI. Education and Libraries
Chapter 160. Schools--General Provisions (Refs & Annos)
Missouri Student Religious Liberties Act

V.A.M.S. 160.2500

160.2500. Citation of act--discrimination based on religious viewpoint or expression prohibited--prayer and religious activities in school permitted, when--religious clothing and jewelry permitted--limited public policy forum authorized

Effective: August 28, 2019

[Currentness](#)

1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the “Missouri Student Religious Liberties Act”.
2. A public school district shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of a religious viewpoint or religious expression. A school district shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the district treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and shall not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.
3. Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions. Homework and classroom assignments shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school district. Students shall not be penalized or rewarded on account of the religious content of their work. If an assignment requires a student's viewpoints to be expressed in course work, artwork or other written or oral assignments, a public school district shall not penalize or reward a student on the basis of religious content or a religious viewpoint. In such an assignment, a student's academic work that expresses a religious viewpoint shall be evaluated based on ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance to the course curriculum or requirements of the course work or assignment.
4. Students in public schools may pray or engage in religious activities or religious expression before, during and after the school day in the same manner and to the same extent that students may engage in nonreligious activities or expression, provided that such religious expression or religious activities are not disruptive of scheduled instructional time or other educational activities and do not impede access to school facilities or mobility on school premises. Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, or other religious gatherings before, during and after school to the same extent that students are permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and groups. Religious groups shall be given the same access to school facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups without discrimination based on the religious content of the student's expression. If student groups that meet for nonreligious activities are permitted to advertise or announce meetings of the groups, the school district shall not discriminate against groups that meet for prayer or other religious speech. A school district may disclaim school sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events in a manner that neither favors nor disfavors groups that meet to engage in prayer or religious speech.

5. Students in public schools may wear clothing, accessories and jewelry that display religious messages or religious symbols in the same manner and to the same extent that other types of clothing, accessories and jewelry that display messages or symbols are permitted, as specified in [subsection 7 of section 167.166](#).

6. (1) To ensure that the school district does not discriminate against a student's publicly stated voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, and to eliminate any actual or perceived affirmative school sponsorship or attribution to the district of a student's expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, a school district shall adopt a policy, which shall include the establishment of a limited public forum for student speakers at all school events at which a student is to publicly speak. The policy regarding the limited public forum shall also require the school district to:

(a) Provide the forum in a manner that does not discriminate against a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject;

(b) Provide a method, based on neutral criteria, for the selection of student speakers at school events and graduation ceremonies;

(c) Ensure that a student speaker does not engage in obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd or indecent speech; and

(d) State, in writing, orally, or both, that the student's speech does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position or expression of the district.

(2) The school district disclaimer required by paragraph (d) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be provided at all graduation ceremonies. The school district shall also continue to provide the disclaimer at any other event in which a student speaks publicly for as long as a need exists to dispel confusion over the district's nonsponsorship of the student's speech.

(3) Student expression on an otherwise permissible subject shall not be excluded from the limited public forum because the subject is expressed from a religious viewpoint.

(4) All public school districts shall adopt and implement a local policy regarding a limited public forum and voluntary student expression of religious viewpoints.

7. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to authorize this state or any of its political subdivisions to either:

(1) Require any person to participate in prayer or in any other religious activity; or

(2) Violate the constitutional rights of any person.

8. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit the authority of any public school to do any of the following:

(1) Maintain order and discipline on the campus of the public school in a content and viewpoint neutral manner;

(2) Protect the safety of students, employees and visitors of the public school;

(3) Adopt and enforce policies and procedures regarding student speech at school, provided that the policies and procedures do not violate the rights of students as guaranteed by law.

9. The provisions of [section 1.140](#) are applicable to this section.

Credits

(L.2014, H.B. No. 1303, § A, eff. Aug. 28, 2014. Amended by L.2019, H.B. No. 604, § A, eff. Aug. 28, 2019.)

V. A. M. S. 160.2500, MO ST 160.2500

Statutes are current through the end of the 2019 First Regular and First Extraordinary Sessions of the 100th General Assembly. Constitution is current through the November 6, 2018 General Election.

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Arizona Revised Statutes Annotated
Title 15. Education (Refs & Annos)
Chapter 1. General Provisions (Refs & Annos)
Article 1. General Provisions (Refs & Annos)

A.R.S. § 15-110

§ 15-110. Rights of students at public educational institutions; limitations; definition

Effective: September 30, 2009

[Currentness](#)

A. A public educational institution shall not discriminate against students or parents on the basis of a religious viewpoint or religious expression.

B. If an assignment requires a student's viewpoint to be expressed in coursework, artwork or other written or oral assignments, a public educational institution shall not penalize or reward a student on the basis of religious content or a religious viewpoint. In such an assignment, a student's academic work that expresses a religious viewpoint shall be evaluated based on ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance to the course curriculum or requirements of the coursework or assignment.

C. Students in public educational institutions may pray or engage in religious activities or religious expression before, during and after the school day in the same manner and to the same extent that students may engage in nonreligious activities or expression.

D. Students in public educational institutions may wear clothing, accessories and jewelry that display religious messages or religious symbols in the same manner and to the same extent that other types of clothing, accessories and jewelry that display messages or symbols are permitted.

E. This section shall not be construed to authorize this state or any of its political subdivisions to do either of the following:

1. Require any person to participate in prayer or in any other religious activity.
2. Violate the constitutional rights of any person.

F. This section shall not be construed to limit the authority of any public educational institution to do any of the following:

1. Maintain order and discipline on the campus of the public educational institution in a content and viewpoint neutral manner.
2. Protect the safety of students, employees and visitors of the public educational institution.

3. Adopt and enforce policies and procedures regarding student speech at school provided that the policies and procedures do not violate the rights of students as guaranteed by the United States and Arizona constitutions and laws.

4. Adopt and enforce policies and procedures that prohibit students from wearing any type of clothing, accessories and jewelry that is worn with the intent to convey affiliation with a criminal street gang as defined in § 13-105.

G. A student or a student's parent shall not initiate legal action to enforce this section unless the student or the student's parent has done the following:

1. The student or the student's parent shall submit a complaint in writing with the specific facts of the alleged violation to the principal of the school. The principal shall investigate the complaint and respond in writing, including a description of any action taken to resolve the complaint, within fifteen days of receiving the written complaint.

2. If the action taken by the principal of the school does not resolve the complaint of the student or the student's parent, the student or the student's parent shall submit a complaint in writing with the specific facts of the alleged violation to the superintendent or designated administrator. The superintendent or designated administrator shall investigate the complaint and respond in writing, including a description of any action taken to resolve the complaint, within twenty-five days of receiving the written complaint.

3. If the action taken by the superintendent or designated administrator does not resolve the complaint of the student or the student's parent, the student or the student's parent may pursue legal action to enforce this section.

H. For the purposes of this section, “public educational institution” means any of the following:

1. A school district, including its schools.

2. A charter school.

3. An accommodation school.

4. The Arizona state schools for the deaf and the blind.

Credits

Added by [Laws 2009, Ch. 88, § 1](#).

A. R. S. § 15-110, AZ ST § 15-110

Current through the First Regular Session of the Fifty-Fourth Legislature (2019)

Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976 Annotated
Title 59. Education
Chapter 1. General Provisions
Article 5. Miscellaneous Provisions

Code 1976 § 59-1-435

§ 59-1-435. Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act.

Effective: May 28, 2010

[Currentness](#)

(A) This section may be cited as the “Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act”.

(B) As used in this section, “discriminate” means to make a distinction in favor of or against a person on the basis of the group, class, or category to which the person belongs, rather than according to actual merit.

(C) A school district shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the district treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and must not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

(D) A student may express his beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of his submission. Homework and classroom assignments must be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school district. A student may not be penalized or rewarded based on the religious content of his work.

(E) Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, “see you at the pole” gatherings, or other religious gatherings before, during, and after school to the same extent that students are permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and groups. Religious groups must be given the same access to school facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups without discrimination based on the religious content of the students' expression. If student groups that meet for nonreligious activities are permitted to advertise or announce meetings of the groups, the school district must not discriminate against groups that meet for prayer or other religious speech. A school district may disclaim school sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events in a manner that neither favors nor disfavors groups that meet to engage in prayer or religious speech.

Credits

HISTORY: 2010 Act No. 180, § 1, eff May 28, 2010.

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Code 1976 § 59-1-435, SC ST § 59-1-435

Current through the 2019 session, subject to technical revisions by the Code Commissioner as authorized by law before official publication.

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West's North Carolina General Statutes Annotated
Chapter 115C. Elementary and Secondary Education
Subchapter VI. Students
Article 29d. Student Prayer and Religious Activity

N.C.G.S.A. § 115C-407.30

§ 115C-407.30. Student rights to engage in prayer and religious activity

Effective: June 19, 2014

[Currentness](#)

(a) A student shall be permitted to voluntarily do any of the following:

- (1) Pray, either silently or audibly and alone or with other students, to the same extent and under the same circumstances as a student is permitted to vocally or silently reflect, meditate, or speak on nonreligious matters alone or with other students in public schools.
- (2) Express religious viewpoints in a public school to the same extent and under the same circumstances as a student is permitted to express viewpoints on nonreligious topics or subjects in the school.
- (3) Speak to and attempt to share religious viewpoints with other students in a public school to the same extent and under the same circumstances as a student is permitted to speak to and attempt to share nonreligious viewpoints with other students.
- (4) Possess or distribute religious literature in a public school, subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, to the same extent and under the same circumstances as a student is permitted to possess or distribute literature on nonreligious topics or subjects in the school.
- (5) Organize prayer groups, religious clubs, “see you at the pole” gatherings, or other religious gatherings before, during, and after school to the same extent that students are permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and groups. Religious groups shall be given the same access to school facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups without discrimination based on the religious content of the students' expression. If student groups that meet for nonreligious activities are permitted to advertise or announce meetings of the groups, the school district shall not discriminate against groups that meet for prayer or other religious speech. A local board of education and local school administrative unit may disclaim school sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events in a manner that neither favors nor disfavors groups that meet to engage in prayer or religious speech.
- (6) Express beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written or oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of the submission. Homework and classroom assignments shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the local board of education. A student shall not be penalized or rewarded based on the religious content of the student's work.

(b) A student may be prohibited from engaging in the actions provided in subsection (a) of this section if the actions of the student would do any of the following:

- (1) Infringe on the rights of the school to (i) maintain order and discipline, (ii) prevent disruption of the educational process, and (iii) determine educational curriculum and assignments.
- (2) Harass other persons or coerce other students to participate in the activity.
- (3) Otherwise infringe on the rights of other persons.

Credits

Added by [S.L. 2014-13, § 1](#), eff. [June 19, 2014](#).

N.C.G.S.A. § 115C-407.30, NC ST § 115C-407.30

The statutes and Constitution are current through S.L. 2018-145 of the 2018 Regular and Extra Sessions, including through 2019-163, of the General Assembly, subject to changes made pursuant to the direction of the Revisor of Statutes.

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