



RELIGIOUS MUSIC

In accordance with State guidelines concerning religious holidays, the Lincoln Public Schools are neutral in matters of religion and no religious celebrations may be held in the public schools. This requirement of neutrality will neither preclude nor hinder the Lincoln Public Schools from educating students to be tolerant of and to respect religious diversity. Such efforts to promote tolerance, mutual respect, and an understanding of different religions and customs may include religious music, providing that:

- Performances of music that recognizes religious holidays or religion generally must be for artistic reasons, not religious reasons. Program notes or other commentary should inform the audience as to the educational purpose for using such music.
- School concerts that present a variety of selections may include religious music, alongside secular music, provided that the program is not dominated by religious music, and that the musical selections reflect the diversity of the school.
- Musical selections are made to enhance tolerance through understanding, while not engaging students in religious ceremony, ritual, or the promotion of any one religion.

Reference: File: IND-E
Weston, CT Public Schools Recognition of Religious Holidays Policy

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Lincoln Public Schools
Lincoln, MA 01773

FILE: IMDC

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Reaffirmed at School Committee Meeting of April 8, 1985

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The State has issued guidelines concerning religious holidays which state that public schools must be neutral in matters of religion and no religious celebrations may be held in the public schools. "Religious celebration" is defined as "the presentation of religious music, except to the extent that such music is presented for its musical rather than its religious content. No songs or music programs that have a significance for a particular religion should be sung or performed in the school during the period which coincides with the community celebration of the events portrayed in the music."

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Reaffirmed at School Committee Meeting of April 8, 1985