

## **Ideology and Religious Expression Policy**

The School shall not prohibit students from engaging in religious expression in completion of homework, artwork, or other written or oral assignments. Assignment grades and scores shall be calculated using ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance, including any legitimate pedagogical concerns, and shall not penalize or reward a student based on religious content of a student's work.

The School shall allow students to engage in religious expression before, during, and after school hours in the same manner and to the same extent that a student is permitted to engage in secular activities or expression before, during, and after school hours.

The School shall provide the same access to school facilities to students who wish to conduct a meeting for the purpose of engaging in religious expression as is given to secular student groups, without regard to the content of a student's or group's expression.

### **Prohibitions:**

- (1) The School shall not solicit or require an employee or applicant for employment or academic admission to affirmatively ascribe to, or opine about, specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, or ideology.
- (2) The School shall not solicit or require a student to affirmatively ascribe to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, or ideology.
- (3) The School shall not use statements of commitment to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, or ideology as part of the evaluation criteria for employees or applicants for employment, or employees that are seeking career progression or benefits.
- (4) The School shall not use statements of commitment to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements or ideology as part of the academic evaluation of students.

### **Construction:**

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit, limit, or restrict any of the following:

- (1) The School's authority to require a student or employee to comply with federal or state law, including anti-discrimination laws, or to take action against a student or employee for violation of federal or state law;
- (2) An educator's academic freedom;
- (3) An educator's ability to research or write publications about specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, ideology, or social action;
- (4) The School's authority to consider an applicant for employment's scholarship, teaching, or subject matter expertise in the applicant's given academic field;
- (5) The School's authority to offer an established character education program.

### **Public Availability:**

The School shall make publicly available all policies, guidance, and training materials used for students, educators, and staff on all matters regarding specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, or ideology. However, this does not require the School to make protected legal communications or guidance publicly available