

YOUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATOR

"Congress shall make **no law**
respecting an establishment
of religion, or prohibiting the
free exercise thereof."
– First Amendment

YOU CAN...

- ✓ Answer questions about your faith or personal beliefs in age-appropriate ways without proselytizing
- ✓ Pray, read the Bible, or have spiritual conversations with colleagues when appropriate (e.g., when not interfering with your duties as an educator)
- ✓ Teach about religion (including using the Bible) in a neutral, non-devotional manner
- ✓ Attend student-led religious activities in a non-participatory manner
- ✓ Volunteer with a community ministry to lead religious meetings on your campus after (or before) school
- ✓ Be a faculty adviser to an official school Christian club (club must be student-led)
- ✓ Supplement your curriculum with religiously-neutral outside sources to bring perspective
- ✓ Ensure that faith-informed opinions of students are treated with respect
- ✓ Express your faith personally in ways that clearly do not carry the endorsement of your school district, like wearing a cross necklace or placing a Bible on your desk
- ✓ Include religious music and literature in curriculum if it has an academic purpose and is balanced with other selections

YOU CANNOT...

Lead prayer, Bible reading, or other devotional activity with students during your duties as an educator

Use your position as an educator to promote religion (or non-religion) to students

Inhibit student religious expression

Treat student religious expression differently than non-religious expression

Treat religious clubs differently than non-religious clubs

Be insubordinate to supervisors if they attempt to limit your religious freedoms—do as directed, then contact Christian Educators

