

New Policy #68-B: Missouri Student Religious Liberties Act

Anti-Discrimination

CWC Kansas City shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of a religious viewpoint or religious expression. CWC Kansas City shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner CWC Kansas City 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.

Student Expression in Homework and Classroom Assignments

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 CWC Kansas City.

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, CWC Kansas City 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.

Student Prayer, Religious Activities, and Religious Expression

Students in CWC Kansas City 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.

Religious student groups shall be allowed to advertise or announce meetings in the same manner as student groups that meet for nonreligious activities.

CWC Kansas City may only disclaim sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events in a manner that neither favors nor disfavors groups that meet to engage in prayer or religious speech.

Student Clothing, Accessories, and Jewelry

Students at CWC Kansas City 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.

Construction

This policy shall not be construed to:

- Require any person to participate in prayer or in any other religious activity
- Violate the constitutional rights of any person
- Prohibit CWC Kansas City from maintaining order and discipline in a content and viewpoint neutral manner
- Prohibit CWC Kansas City from protecting the safety of students, employees, and visitors of CWC Kansas City
- Prohibit CWC Kansas City from adopting and enforcing 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.