

Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District	<b>Holiday Observance and Program</b>	Policy # 6190C
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It is the Policy of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District to recognize the diverse beliefs which are held by the various constituents of our school community, and encourage all students and staff to appreciate and be tolerant of each others' religious beliefs. It is the goal of the SRVTSD to foster understanding and mutual respect among people of different race culture, economic background or religious belief.

**1. Curricular Base**

- a. In the spirit of tolerance, neither the school district nor its staff will promote any religious belief or non-belief.
  
- b. The historical and contemporary values and the origin of religious holidays may be studied in an unbiased and objective manner without sectarian indoctrination.
  
- c. Music, art, literature and drama having religious themes are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs only if the religious themes are treated in an objective manner and the material is presented as part of a program with a secular purpose. No religious exercise may be conducted at school as part of the program of instruction.
  
- d. Teachers should plan field trips, tests, and special events for times when, to the extent feasible, these will not directly conflict with students' known religious observances and absences.

**2. Right to Excuse a Child**

A parent or guardian of a student may excuse his or her child from classroom discussions or activities related to particular holidays.

	Date Drafted	Date Warned	Date Adopted
Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District	12/03/07	1/15/08	1/12/08