

Students

**SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED PRAYER IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The Board affirms in writing to the New York State Education Department, the responsibilities of the District, consistent with applicable statutory or case law pertaining to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, to allow students and staff to engage in constitutionally protected prayer within the District schools.

Accordingly, no Board policy will prevent, or otherwise deny participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in District schools, consistent with federal law.

The Board rescinds any other policy that may be inconsistent with the mandates of this policy, which will supersede any and all Board policies to the contrary.

United States Constitution, First Amendment  
Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, § 9524  
Equal Access Act, 20 USC §§ 4071-4074

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #8360 -- Religious Expression in the Instructional Program