

## **SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES**

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School District observes the establishment clause of the first amendment to the Constitution which guarantees both the separation of church and state and also the right of an individual to free speech. The School Committee understands that there can be a tension between these two parts of the first amendment. The schools must also respect the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In addition, we recognize that in any group there are diverse cultural, ethnic, religious and social traditions which should be understood through educational practice. We shall recognize and honor our differences, not ignore them. Students and staff will be encouraged to appreciate and accept ethnic and religious diversity. We shall be respectful of the beliefs and practices of others.

LEGAL REF:           603 CMR 26:05

REF: Acknowledging Religious Holidays, File: ACD and ACD-R

Approved: 5/22/14

*Acton-Boxborough Regional School District*