

Instruction**General Organization of Instruction****School Ceremonies and Observations**

The Watertown Unified School District recognizes the multicultural nature of the American society including the diversity of backgrounds of individual students attending public schools. The District reflects the community, provides a multicultural educational experience for students and respects the values and ideals of all persons.

In this context, special observance days and traditional holidays or holiday seasons widely celebrated in the community may be referenced in the curriculum and school observances. Individual buildings and teachers may incorporate symbols, songs, and traditions into observance activities or the curriculum in a manner that shall be inclusive of all students, have a secular educational purpose and conform to related Board policies.

When an observance or curriculum activity conflicts with a student's background or values, the student shall not be required to engage in that phase of the curriculum or observance. Requests that are based on religious beliefs shall be processed in accordance with applicable District procedures. Requests for alternative activities based on other reasons may be made by the students or parents/guardians. When such a request is made, involved staff members shall provide alternative activities to the student and shall attempt to minimize the exposure of a student to the activities subject to objection.

Legal Reference: **Section 118.02, Wisconsin Statutes**
 Section 118.06, Wisconsin Statutes
 Section 118.15, Wisconsin Statutes
 P19 Wisconsin Administrative Code
 P141 Wisconsin Administrative Code

Policy Approved: **January 27, 2014**

Policy Revised: