

Know Your Rights ...



Freedom of Speech & Religion in Public Schools

“It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate.” - Supreme Court of the United States, *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*

At school you can . . .

- ✓ **Exercise your right to free speech**, unless you create a substantial disruption to school activities. That includes the expression of your religious beliefs in discussions and assignments. All speech must be treated equally.
- ✓ **Read your Bible during free time and share your faith with others**, including through printed material. Again, any policy restricting printed material must apply to all material and not be aimed at religious material only.

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- ✓ **Wear clothing or jewelry that displays religious messages** within the school dress code.
- ✓ **Have *student-led* prayer** during non-instructional times and at school functions.
- ✓ **Form religious clubs**, enjoying the same access as any other school club.
- ✓ **Be exempted from any activity** that violates your religious convictions.
- ✓ **Celebrate or observe a religious holiday** within the same guidelines as any other holiday.



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But remember ...

- **Be respectful.** Follow instructions at all times and ask to talk to someone in the principal's office if you believe your rights are being violated.
- **If you have any questions**, contact Concerned Women for America by visiting our website at cwfa.org.

NOTE: This is not intended to be legal advice.

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