



# CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS POLICY

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Bonneville Academy upholds and protects the constitutional freedoms of students, as required by the United States Constitution, the Utah Constitution, and Utah State Board of Education Rule R277-105. This includes the right to freedom of speech, expression, conscience, and the free exercise of religion within the public school setting.

## Policy Statement

Bonneville Academy shall respect the rights of students to express personal religious beliefs and to engage in religious activities, so long as such expression or activities do not disrupt the educational environment or infringe on the rights of others. Students may voluntarily express religious viewpoints in assignments, artwork, or class discussions, and may engage in personal prayer or other religious activities during non-instructional time, provided participation is voluntary and student-led.

## Staff Responsibilities

School staff shall not promote, endorse, or lead religious activities. Instruction may include religious themes only when presented objectively as part of a secular educational program to meet educational standards. Staff must remain neutral with respect to religion while supporting a respectful environment for diverse beliefs.

## Curriculum and Instruction Guidelines

Curriculum may include the study of religion or references to religious beliefs or practices, provided the material is presented objectively and for academic purposes. Teachers may teach about religion, but may not teach religion or advocate for religious doctrine. Religious content must be tied to a legitimate secular objective such as understanding history, literature, or cultural traditions.





## Student Rights

Students may express their religious beliefs through speech, written work, clothing, or symbolic items, provided such expression does not violate school dress codes, disrupt the learning environment, or infringe upon the rights of other students. Students may organize and participate in religious clubs or gatherings under the same rules that apply to other student-led groups, consistent with the federal Equal Access Act.

## Nondiscrimination

Bonneville Academy shall not discriminate against students or employees based on religious belief or non-belief. The school affirms the principles of 'perfect toleration of religious sentiment' as stated in Article I, Section 4 of the Utah Constitution.

## Legal Compliance

This policy complies with the following laws and regulations:

- United States Constitution, First Amendment
- Utah Constitution, Article I, Section 4
- Utah State Board of Education Rule R277-105 – Proper Recognition of Constitutional Freedoms in the Public Schools
- Equal Access Act (20 U.S.C. §§ 4071–4074)

Approved by the Board of Directors on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair, Bonneville Academy Board of Directors

