

**Instruction - Elementary and Secondary****NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES--HOLIDAY PROGRAMS**

This regulation defines the nature of activities which will be permitted as our schools observe certain traditional national holidays.

The final decree handed down on May 10, 1961, by J. Fritz Gordon, Circuit Judge, in the case of **Chamberlin vs. Board of Public Instruction** and **Resnick vs. Board of Public Instruction** covered a number of issues.

Item No. 3 of the decree permits religious symbols created by the children to be displayed on the public schools on a temporary basis. It also permits children to display, upon their own person, such religious symbols as they desire.

Item No. 7 permits the singing of religious hymns.

Item No. 9 prohibits the showing of motion pictures which are in some degree religious in nature and which depict various religious happenings, principles, ideals, and teachings.

Item No. 10 prohibits the observance in the public schools of religious holiday ceremonies, such as plays around Christmas time depicting the birth of Christ, and around Easter of the Crucifixion of Christ, and Hanukkah ceremonies, and other religious ceremonies on school property.

The other items in the decree are not mentioned since they are not related to holiday activities.

There appears to be nothing in the decree which prohibits the traditional holiday parties and symbols such as the Christmas tree, together with other decorations which are not religious in nature.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 230.22(1); 230.23(4)(g); 233.062 F.S.

**History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Repromulgated: 12-11-74

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