



San Diego Unified School District

EUGENE BRUCKER EDUCATION CENTER
4100 Normal Street, San Diego, CA 92103-2682

(619) 725-5506

Carl A. Cohn
Superintendent of Schools

TO: All Teachers and Staff at Carver Elementary

FROM: Carl A. Cohn

DATE: July 18, 2007

SUBJECT: DO'S AND DON'T'S OF RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION AT
CARVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This memorandum is intended to supplement my longer memorandum of today on the subject "Carver Elementary Religious Accommodation and Related Matters" by providing for teachers and staff a convenient list of "DO's and 'DON'T's." Our goal is to comply fully with the law and to respect the rights of all students and their parents.

DO:

1. Understand and explain to parents and other interested parties that Arabic language instruction is offered at Carver Elementary for the purpose of offering an additional educational option for parents who desire it for their children, and not to promote or facilitate the reading of the *Quran* or any other sacred religious text.
2. Understand and explain that the offering of Arabic language instruction as an additional educational choice is part of the district's policy of offering a wide array of diverse educational options for parents and their children, and that it is also consistent with the federal government's encouragement of the teaching of the Arabic language and other "critical-needs languages" to American students, even in grades K-12.
3. Respect the rights to the free exercise of religion held by all students, including the right to voluntary, student-initiated, and student-led prayer that does not disrupt the educational process or pressure others to pray. This holds true for Christians, Jewish persons, Muslims and students of any other religious faith, creed, or philosophy.

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DO NOT:

1. Teach the Arabic language using the *Quran* or any other sacred text.
2. Encourage or promote the reading of the *Quran*, the Bible, or any other sacred text, but neither discourage or hinder the reading of any sacred text.
3. Make any statements or take any actions that encourage, promote or endorse prayer. This applies to prayer in the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths, and any and all other faiths.
4. Discourage, interfere with, or prevent voluntary, student-initiated, or student-led prayer that does not disrupt the educational process or pressure others to pray.
5. Participate audibly or visibly with students on campus in voluntary student prayer.

Please direct any questions about these matters to Principal Kidd or the district's General Counsel, Ted Buckley (619-725-5630).

CAC:clg

c: T. Buckley, General Counsel
G. Flores, Deputy Superintendent
K. Kidd, Principal, Carver Elementary School