

## **ORGANIZATION, PHILOSOPHY, AND GOALS**

### **Family and School Partnerships**

### **Expectations for Meditation and Silent Reflection Space Accommodations**

This regulation supersedes Regulation 8280.

#### **I. PURPOSE**

To ensure that students and staff have reasonable accommodation and access to meditation and silent reflection spaces within the school division.

#### **II. SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

Regulation 8280 has been renamed Regulation 1502.

#### **III. DEFINITIONS**

*Meditation and silent reflection space* is a designated area within a school or school premises made available for individuals to engage in prayer, meditation, or silent reflection, inclusive of their religious or non-religious beliefs.

#### **IV. PROVISION OF MEDITATION AND SILENT REFLECTION SPACES**

- A. Each school and office within the district shall provide at least one meditation and silent reflection space that is easily accessible and adequately accommodates the needs of students and staff.
- B. The meditation and silent reflection space should be separate from other areas, if possible, to provide a quiet and peaceful environment for those utilizing the space.
- C. The school administrator shall ensure that the meditation and silent reflection space is available during regular school hours and accessible to all individuals who wish to use it.
- D. Meditation and silent reflection space may change as needed, but each school will make its best effort to keep students and staff informed of the location changes as they occur.
- E. Supervision, as available, will be provided in the meditation and silent reflection space. Due to safety or supervision issues, a school may not be able to provide a meditation and silent reflection space on a temporary basis but shall work with individual students on other possible ways to accommodate their prayer, meditation, and silent reflection needs.

**V. PRAYER, MEDITATION AND SILENT REFLECTION DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME**

- A. Students are only permitted to use Meditation and Silent Reflection rooms during instructional time when there is a request that cannot be accommodated in any other way that does not impact instruction. Without an approved accommodation to address a need that warrants missing class, students are not permitted to use the rooms during instruction.
- B. Parents/caregivers must provide written permission for students to miss instructional time on a regular basis.
- C. All requests for accommodations during instructional time should be directed to the school principal or principal designee.
- D. All school staff are expected to abide by approved accommodation requests for individual students. No student will be penalized for accessing approved accommodations during instructional time.

**VI. USE OF MEDITATION AND SILENT REFLECTION SPACES**

- A. The meditation and silent reflection space is intended for personal use, and individuals using the space shall respect the rights and beliefs of others.
- B. The meditation and silent reflection space may be used for individual or group prayer, meditation, or silent reflection.
- C. The use of the meditation and silent reflection space shall be voluntary, and no student or staff member will be compelled to use or participate in activities within the space. Staff may not lead students in prayer or other religious practices.

**VII. GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF SPACE**

- A. Students are expected to adhere to expectations of school behavior and parameters of the accommodation while using meditation and silent reflection spaces.

The school administrator may establish reasonable rules and guidelines for the use of the meditation and silent reflection space to ensure its effective and respectful utilization. The rules and guidelines should include provisions to prevent any disruptions, conflicts, or infringements upon the rights of others. Schools that adopt rules and guidelines for the use of meditation and silent reflection spaces must post those guidelines in the designated meditation and silent reflection space, publicize them to families at the start of each school year, as well as send reminders during the school year.

- B. Individuals using the meditation and silent reflection space shall abide by these rules and guidelines while using the space.

**VIII. COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS**

- A. The school district and school leaders shall communicate the availability and purpose of the meditation and silent reflection space to all students, staff, and parents or guardians.
- B. Information about the meditation/silent reflection spaces, including their locations and hours of availability, should be readily accessible through appropriate means.

**IX. REVIEW AND EVALUATION**

- A. The school district shall periodically review and evaluate the effectiveness of the meditation and silent reflection space, considering feedback from students, staff, parents, school leaders, and community stakeholders.
- B. Based on the evaluation, necessary adjustments should be made for meditation and silent reflection space.

Legal Reference: Equal Access Act (20 U.S.C. §§ 4071, et seq.)  
First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution  
Elementary and Secondary Education Act

See also the current versions of:

Policy 1460, Religion  
Regulation 1461, Religion  
Regulation 2601, Student Rights and Responsibilities