



Focus on Religious Freedom

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New Federal Guidelines Explain the Rights of Public School Students to Prayer and Religious Expression: Part 2

The most effective propaganda ever spread through the USA is that students' rights to private prayer and religious expression in public schools was removed by the Supreme Court. The second part of that extremely effective but false propaganda is that separation of church and state blocks individual prayer in public schools.

When a knowledgeable student or parent points out the truth...that the applicable opinion, Engel v. Vitale in 1962, prevented a government defined prayer as part of the school day routine, but in no way denied students' rights to personal prayer and religious expression in public school, this propaganda is used to block them.

This propaganda was first highlighted in 1988 when Pres. Clinton directed the Dept. of Education to issue guidelines about students rights to prayer and religious expression in public schools. Pres. Clinton included these points:

Religious Expression In Public Schools

"I share the concern and frustration that many Americans feel about situations where the protections accorded by the First Amendment are not recognized or understood. This problem has manifested itself in our Nation's public schools. It appears that some school officials, teachers and parents have assumed that religious expression of any type is either inappropriate, or forbidden altogether, in public schools.

As our courts have reaffirmed, however, nothing in the First Amendment converts our public schools into religion-free zones, or requires all religious expression to be left behind at the schoolhouse door. While the government may not use schools to coerce the consciences of our students, or to convey official endorsement of religion, the government's schools also may not discriminate against private religious expression during the school day."

Unfortunately most Americans have never heard Clinton's words nor the recently updated guidelines issued under Pres. Trump on Feb. 5, 2026. These guidelines now include the latest protections for students by reflecting recent Supreme Court opinions confirming the rights of students and teachers to live their faith in public schools. They also include the opinions protecting students from LGBTQ and transgender indoctrination and assert parents' rights to educate their children on faith and morals.

<https://tinyurl.com/yzd8rrwx> <https://tinyurl.com/5ak83uej>