



STUDENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS ON A PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUS

Based on recent court decisions, the Students' Bill of Right is a widely distributed document explaining briefly the basic religious rights of middle and high school students.

In the 1940's, 50's, 60's and 70's, religion was taken out of the schools, but in the 90's rights have been given back to students. Your teachers can't lead prayers, but you can. Your school can't teach the Bible, but you can teach it at your school (and give Bibles away)! You have first amendment rights to faith and free speech on your campus, exercise your rights!

Your Rights

- I. The right to meet with other religious students
- II. The right to identify your religious beliefs through signs and symbols
- III. The right to talk about your religious beliefs on campus

The Supreme Court has stated that freedom of speech does extend to the public school campus when concerning religious issues.

IV. The right to distribute religious literature on campus. Literature may not be restricted just because it is religious. However, outside non-students may not use students to distribute literature and literature may not stuff lockers.

V. The right to pray on campus. "**See You At the Pole**" has been specifically mentioned as allowed in government guidelines and other forms of prayer are allowed if not forced on other students. Certain kinds of public prayer, such as graduation prayers are allowed on certain circumstances but not in others.

VI. The right to carry or study your Bible on campus. The Supreme Court has said that only state directed Bible reading is unconstitutional.

VII. The right to do research papers, speeches, and creative projects with religious themes

VIII. The right to be exempt from activities and class content that contradict their religious beliefs

IX. The right to celebrate religious holidays on campus; Music, art, drama and literature that have religious themes are permitted as part of curriculum if presented objectively as part of traditional cultural parts of a holiday.

X. The right to meet with school officials

The right to petition school officials is protected by the constitution.

