



## Constitutional Rights/Protected Prayer Policy

Students and teachers have the rights of conscience and exercise of religious freedom as provided for by law. The Constitution of Utah prohibits school employees from encouraging or discouraging religious beliefs or practices, or repressing rights of conscience. Given the unique relationship between students and school personnel, school personnel must be particularly careful to remain neutral in matters relating to religion, while striving to accommodate the religious beliefs and practices, and the freedom of conscience of Gateway students and their parents or legal guardians. Historical, social, and cultural elements of religion may be presented as part of a secular educational program. In accordance with state law (Utah Code 53G-10-402, R77-105), parents or legal guardians may excuse their students and secondary students may request to be excused or refrain from participating in a school activity, or a portion of the curriculum that they feel infringes upon their rights of conscience or religious freedom.

Students are allowed to pray in school if they choose; however, employees/staff/administration are prohibited from leading students in prayer.

### **Board Reviewed/Approved:**

September 19<sup>th</sup> 2019