

Prayer for Christians to Exercise Rights in Public School Arena



(Current legally protected rights of religious expression: From Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation
<http://cpcfoundation.com/religious/religious-freedom/>)

1. **Discrimination**—School authorities may not discriminate against religious activity or speech. Pray that school administrators would uphold students' and teachers' religious and speech rights.
2. **Bible Reading and Prayer**—Students may read their Bibles or other Scriptures, say a prayer before meals and pray before tests. Pray that Christian students would freely and courageously pray and read their Bibles at appropriate times during school.
3. **Discussions**—Students may attempt to persuade their peers concerning religious topics, just as they may political topics. Harassment, however, (which is not defined) is not permissible. Pray that Christian students would lovingly share Jesus with their peers and have wisdom not to harass their classmates.
4. **School Work**—Students may use religious themes in their homework, artwork, or other assignments, and such work should be judged (graded) by ordinary academic standards. Pray that students would seek God to creatively share Christian themes in their school assignments.
5. **Literature**—Students have the right to distribute religious literature (tracts, etc.) to their schoolmates on the same terms as they are permitted to distribute other literature. Pray that students would be discern how to best distribute religious literature to their peers.
6. **Religious Objections**—Students may be excused from lessons that are objectionable on religious or other conscientious grounds. Pray the Christian parents would be made aware of any lesson presented to their child/ren that are religiously objectionable and that they would boldly have their child/ren excused from these lessons.
7. **Clothing**—Students may wear clothing depicting religious themes, and these messages may not be singled out for suppression. They are subject to the same rules as apply to comparable messages. Pray that Christian students feel free to wear clothing with a Christian message.
8. **Christian Groups**—Students religious groups at public secondary schools have the same right of access to school facilities as is enjoyed by other comparable student groups. Pray that that students not be hindered from access to school facilities and help these groups know an articulate these rights to authorities.
9. **Student Meetings**—Student meetings may include a prayer service, Bible reading, or other worship exercise. Pray that students would confidently take advantage of opportunities to meet together or religious activities at school.
10. **Access**—Students may use the public address system, the school newspaper, and the school bulletin board to announce their meetings, on the same terms as other student groups. (This only applies to schools receiving federal funds.) Pray that administrators allow student groups at your local schools equal access as other groups.
11. **Teaching**—Schools may teach about religion, including the Bible or other scripture, the history of religion, the Bible-as-literature, and the role of religion in the United States and other countries. Schools are to be neutral with respect to religion. However, they may play an active role with respect to teaching civic values and virtue, and the moral code that holds us together as a community. Schools may not allow religious instruction by outsiders on school premises during the school day. However, school officials may dismiss students to off-premises religious instruction. Pray that Christian teachers seek God in how to neutrally incorporate religion in their lessons and that they may do so without censure.

Student Rights Public Schools:

1. Students can pray, read their Bibles or other religious material, and talk about their faith at school.
2. Students can organize prayer groups and religious clubs, and they can announce their meetings.
3. Students can express their faith in their classwork and homework.
4. Teachers can organize prayer groups with other teachers.
5. Students may be able to go off campus to have religious studies during school hours.
6. Students can express their faith at a school event.
7. Students can express their faith at their graduation ceremony.

A summary of key points from *Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools* (www.ed.gov) by Gateways to Better Education (www.GoGateways.org)

Student Rights at Public University:

1. **Freedom of Speech** - The U.S. Constitution protects your right to express personal religious and political beliefs in writing, speech, and visual or performing arts while at a public university. In class, a professor may ask you to take positions you disagree with, so long as he doesn't require you to agree with those positions outside the classroom.
2. **Freedom of Association** - Christian and conservative student groups have the same right to associate on public university campuses as any other group.
3. **Free Exercise of Religious Beliefs** - Public universities cannot compel you to publicly advocate views and adopt values that are contrary to your beliefs.
4. **Equal Access** - All recognized student groups have the same right to access resources a university has made available. This includes funding, meeting rooms, mail systems, or other campus resources.
5. **Equal Opportunity** - As a student, you have the right to be free from censorship, reprisal, or punishment for your beliefs. Students with religious or conservative beliefs should have the same chance at academic success, employment, and promotion.
From <https://www.adflegal.org/issues/religious-freedom/university/u-faq>.