

## **“Students of Faith” – Visiting Your Local School Board**

**Our students cannot stand alone against years of effective propaganda that “Public schools are prayer - free and God-free zones.” Parents and students should not have to worry about negative targeting if they or their child stands for the religious expression guaranteed to them by the Constitution, 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and US Dept. of Education Guidelines.**

**This is how one person addressed their local school board. Each of us, in our own words, can “Educate the Educators” to ensure, one school board and administration at a time, that school environments are not hostile to religious expression.**

**These were the remarks made....**

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am aware and grateful that America’s public schools are not God-Free zones. I came here tonight because there are too many instances in public schools, across the USA, of students being denied their rights to religious expression. I encourage educators, students, and their families to better understand and respect these important First Amendment rights.**

I call your attention to the US Dept of Education’s “Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools.”

[https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/prayer\\_guidance.html](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/prayer_guidance.html)

These guidelines were first published under the direction of Pres. Bill Clinton and explain how students are able to live their faith in many appropriate ways during their school day. The guidance is referred to in Section 8524 of the July 31, 2018 amended Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

I have brought you a copy of the original guidance printed from the Dept of Education website.

In addition, I have a pamphlet, “It’s OK for Students to Pray” for each of you, summarizing these guidelines

### **(If time allows, these are examples to read.)**

A sampling of these guidelines is that students may:

- pray before and after school and during free time such as lunch time;
- read the Bible and other religious books during free reading time;
- write, speak and draw expressions of their faith in classwork and homework where appropriate to the assignment;
- wear clothing and jewelry with religious messages;
- speak about God and their faith at school events and graduation;
- form religious based clubs that use school resources the same as other non-curricular clubs.

**These Department of Education’s guidelines are referred to in the July 31, 2018 amended “Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965” which requires in Section 8524 that, as a condition of receiving funds under this act, a local educational agency shall certify in writing to the State educational agency involved that no policy of the local educational agency prevents, or otherwise denies participation in constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools by Oct. 1 of each year. I am requesting a copy of this district’s certification, along with accompanying information showing how this school district complies with the guidelines to insure such certification is valid.**

**I am leaving my contact information. Please send responsive information within 30 days.**

**My Contact Information:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

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**I am referring to Section 8524 of the document linked here:**

**<https://legcounsel.house.gov/Comps/Elementary%20And%20Secondary%20Education%20Act%20Of%201965.pdf>**

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