

ADVANTAGE ACADEMY  
GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION #09/10-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF  
ADVANTAGE ACADEMY  
FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY

**Whereas**, the right to religious freedom is a foundation block of America's historical roots, and

**Whereas**, our Founding Fathers knew the importance of freedom of religion for a stable democracy, and our Constitution protects individuals' rights to worship as they choose, and

**Whereas**, January 16<sup>th</sup> celebrates the anniversary of the 1786 Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom that restrained the practice of taxing people to pay for the support of the local clergy, and protected the civil rights of people to express their religious beliefs without suffering discrimination. This statute serves as the model for protecting religious freedom as evidence in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and

**Whereas**, each year the President of the United States declares January 16<sup>th</sup> to be "Religious Freedom Day," and calls upon Americans to "observe this day through appropriate events and activities in homes, schools, and places of worship," and

**Whereas**, Section 9524 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act ("ESEA") of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, requires as a condition of receiving ESEA funds, that a Local Educational Agency ("LEA") must certify in writing to its State Educational Agency ("SEA") that it has no policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools, and

**Whereas**, Advantage Academy declares that it does not find or promote policies that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools as set forth in ESEA, Section 9524 guidance, and

**Whereas**, the U.S. Department of Education has developed guidelines clarifying the freedom of religious expression in public schools and requested that schools inform educators, students, and parents of these liberties,

**Therefore**, be it resolved that, Advantage Academy acknowledges January 16<sup>th</sup> as Religious Freedom Day in the United States of America, and

**Further**, Advantage Academy encourages all Americans to reflect on the great blessing of religious liberty; preserve this freedom for future generations; and commemorate this day

with appropriate events and activities in their schools, places of worship, neighborhoods, and homes.

**Further**, the Board of Education calls on the schools of Advantage Academy to commemorate this day and promote clarity and respect by providing its staff and students with information on freedom of religious expression in our schools.

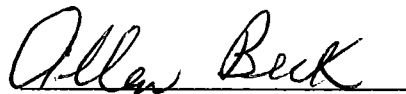
AYES: GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Allen Beck  
Dan Petty  
Gerald Zielke  
Rob Nickell Jr.  
Angela R. McDonald

NOES: GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS:

ABSTAIN: GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS:

ABSENT: GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS:

ATTEST:



Dr. Allen Beck  
Advantage Academy  
Governing Board

October 30, 2013

Date

# School Improvement Checklist

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Academic Freedom		
<b>School District Policies</b>		
Y	N	<i>Yes or No</i>
		The school district has a favorable policy on teaching about religious topics
		The school district has a holidays policy similar to <i>Florey v. Sioux Falls</i>
		The school district allows for, or requires, a moment of silence at the beginning of each day (applicable in 35 states)
<b>School Practices</b>		
Y	N	<i>Yes or No</i>
		Teachers are adequately informed of the school district's favorable policy on teaching about religious topics
		Bible literacy and Judeo-Christian history, culture, and values are appropriately included across the curriculum
		Social Studies – students learn about the Bible and Christianity's influence on American and Western civilization
		Language Arts – Bible literacy is incorporated to enhance literary understanding
		Science – students are taught the limits of science and have access to alternative theories of origins
		Mathematics – students learn how people of faith use math to benefit others (e.g., charity, inventions)
		Foreign Language – students learn the Christian cultures of foreign countries
		Music – sacred music is incorporated in the music program
		Art – students learn the significant role of Christianity in the support and develop of the arts
		Library Books – students have access to the Bible and books with Christian characters and themes
		As part of the music program, students sing Christmas carols and other songs with religious themes
		Educators teach about the religious aspects of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.
		Teachers conduct a moment of silence at the beginning of each day (applicable in 35 states)
Religious Freedom		
<b>School District Policies</b>		
Y	N	<i>Yes or No</i>
		Religious Freedom Day is officially recognized annually by a resolution issued from the school board
		The school district has a policy clarifying students' and educators' religious liberties
		The school district has a policy allowing religious release time programs
		The school district has a policy allowing student-led religious clubs
		The school district has a policy allowing after-school religious clubs
<b>School Practices</b>		
Y	N	<i>Yes or No</i>
		Religious Freedom Day is recognized by each school
		Schools annually distribute information about students' religious liberties to all students, parents, educators, and administrators
		Character education lessons include explaining the freedom to express one's faith in word and deed at school
		The schools offer a religious release time program
		The schools have student-led religious clubs
		The schools have after-school religious clubs