

MOMENT OF SILENCE

It shall be the policy of the Southwest Technology Center Board of Education that no sectarian or religious doctrine shall be taught or inculcated into the curriculum or activities of the school. However, those students who wish to do so may participate in voluntary prayer so long as it is during noninstructional time and does not interfere with the rights of other students.

Each school site within the district shall observe one minute of silence each day for the purpose of allowing each student to meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity that does not interfere with, distract, or impede other students in the exercise of their choice. All school personnel are to afford these options to all students, who will individually make the selection as to which of these behaviors they will engage in during the moment of silence. These options will also be included in the student handbooks. Students or staff shall not coerce or attempt to coerce any person to engage in any particular activity during the minute of silence. The following statement shall be read or stated by the classroom teacher at the opening activity for the class:

All students and staff are asked to observe a minute of silence to reflect, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity that does not interfere with others. The minute of silence shall begin now.

The teacher shall also indicate the minute of silence is concluded. Teachers shall limit their comments regarding the minute of silence to the statement set forth above.

The minute of silence will be held at the start of the school day. The minute of silence will be announced by each program instructor before morning instruction commences.

If the district or a school employee is sued for providing a moment of silence to students, the district must notify the Attorney General within five (5) days. The Attorney General will provide legal representation to the district or employee named as a defendant in an action related to this statutory requirement.

**REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §11-101.1
70 O.S. §11-101.2**

CROSS-REFERENCE: Student Handbooks

Adopted: August 12, 2002, as policy S-195