

Religious Instruction.

As it also appears from the report of the Commissioners that religious instruction is given in some schools during school hours, and that the regulations on this subject are not generally understood, the attention of trustees and teachers is specially directed to the regulations given below. From these it may be seen that liberal provision is made for religious instruction, according to law. It should be borne in mind that in order to carry out the spirit of the law and the regulations with respect to religious instruction, emblems of of a denominational character should not be exhibited in a public school during regular school hours. You will therefore see that the non-denominational character of the public school is strictly preserved, in this as in all other matters respecting religious exercises.

Regulations with respect to Religious Exercises.

8. The school hours shall be from nine o'clock in the forenoon till four o'clock in the afternoon, but the trustees by resolution may, for the purpose of affording facilities for religious instruction or for any other proper purpose, prescribe a shorter period.

200. Every Public and High School shall be opened with the Lord's Prayer and closed with the reading of the Scriptures and the Lord's Prayer, or the prayer authorized by the Department of Education.

201. The Scriptures shall be read daily and systematically without comment or explanation, and the portions used may be taken from the book of selections adopted by the Department for that purpose, or from the Bible, as the Trustees, by resolution, may direct.

202. Trustees may also order the reading of the Bible or the authorized Scripture Selections by both pupils and teachers at the opening and closing of the school, and the repeating of the Ten Commandments at least once a week.

203. No pupil shall be required to take part in any religious exercise objected to by his parents or guardians, and in order to the observance of this regulation, the teacher, before commencing a religious exercise, is to allow a short interval to elapse, during which the children of Roman Catholics, and of others who have signified their objection, may retire.

204. If, in virtue of the right to be absent from the religious exercises, any pupil does not enter the school room till fifteen minutes after the proper time for opening the school in the forenoon, such absence shall not be treated as an offence against the rules of the school.

205. When a teacher claims to have conscientious scruples in regard to opening or closing the school as herein prescribed, he shall notify the Trustees to that effect in writing, and it shall be the duty of the Trustees to make such provision in the premises as they may deem expedient.