

- [TASH 35th Annual Conference Embracing Difference.....It's Time! December 8-11, 2010](#)
- [Learning Disabilities Association's 48th Annual International Conference February 23-26, 2011](#)
- [The Equity Alliance at ASU's Equity Forum -- Beyond the Sidelines: Let's Get to Work Feb. 28 & March 1, 2011](#)

Online Tools

- [PBS Teacher Resources](#)
 - [New Muslim Cool](#)
- [Anti-Defamation League](#)
 - [Religious Freedom](#)
- [ReligiousTolerance.org](#)

Online Publications

- [Finding Common Ground](#)
- [A Parent's Guide to Religion in Public Schools](#)

Educational Equity Corner: How would you respond?

How would you respond if a group of students form a Bible club and ask for permission to meet in a classroom before school?

How would you respond if two Muslim sisters are told by a school principal that they cannot wear their hijabs (head-covering scarves) to school due to a no-hats policy?

Denying the students' requests in

teachers to take a courageous stand in addressing the needs of religiously diverse students. In this edition of Equity Matters, we offer up tools and resources to spark reflection and dialogue around common practice as it relates to religion in schools.

Equity in Action



[Teaching Tolerance](#), founded in 1991 by the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), is dedicated to reducing prejudice, improving intergroup relations and supporting equitable school experiences for our nation's children. Teaching Tolerance provides free educational materials to teachers and other school practitioners in the U.S. and abroad.

"Tolerance" is surely an imperfect term, yet the English language offers no single word that embraces the broad range of skills we need to live together peacefully. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used the Greek term "agape" to describe a universal love that "discovers the neighbor in every man it meets." The various disciplines concerned with human behavior have also offered a variety of adjectives: "pro-social," "democratic," "affiliative." In its Declaration on the Principles of Tolerance, UNESCO offers a definition of tolerance that most closely matches their philosophical use of the word:

Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. Tolerance is harmony in difference.

We view tolerance as a way of thinking and feeling - but most importantly, of acting - that gives us peace in our individuality, respect for those unlike us, the wisdom to discern humane values and the courage to act upon them.

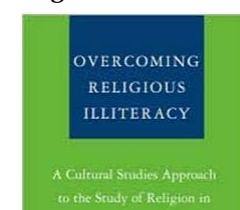
Below are links addressing issues of religious tolerance:

- [One Nation, Many Gods](#)
- [10 Tips for Starting a World Religions Curriculum](#)
- [Maintain Neutrality](#)
- [Respecting Nonreligious People](#)

Tools You Can Use

Things to Read

[Overcoming Religious Illiteracy](#) by Diane L. Moore addresses the lack of understanding about 1) the basic tenets of the world's religious traditions; 2) the diversity of expressions and beliefs

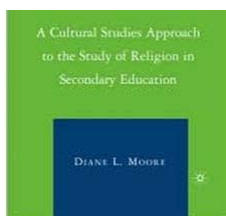


within traditions that emerge and evolve in relation to differing social/historical contexts; and 3) the profound role that religion plays in human social, cultural, and political life in both contemporary and historical contexts.

these examples may be violations of federal law, which prohibits the denial of educational opportunities because of a person's religion. The Division's Educational Opportunities Section enforces these laws in elementary and secondary schools, as well as public colleges and universities.

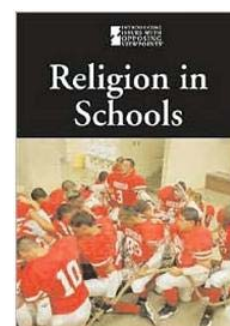
If you believe that you or your child has been denied access to an educational program or otherwise discriminated against by a school operated by a state or local government, you can contact the Division's Educational Opportunities Section toll free at (877) 292-3804, or write to: Educational Opportunities Section -- PHB, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20530. Further information is available at www.usdoj.gov/crt/edo.

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Religious literacy entails the ability to discern and analyze the fundamental intersections of religion and social/political/cultural life through multiple lenses. This definition presumes that religion is a social/cultural phenomenon that is embedded in human political, social and cultural life. They also presume that religion shapes and is shaped by the social/historical contexts out of which particular religious expressions and influences emerge.

Religion in Schools by Noel Merino, Elizabeth Des Chenes (Editor) and Christine Nasso presents 16 articles for and against a controversial topic, but it also boasts numerous informative photos, graphs, and charts. The book also includes fact boxes, comprehension questions at the beginning and end of each article, and annotated lists of books, Websites, and pertinent organizations. The articles, which date from 2001 to 2007 and vary considerably in appeal and difficulty, address the topic generally and then tackle the issues of intelligent design and prayer. The book's main advantage is its preselection and additional resources.



Things to Watch

[The Paper Clip Project](#) (Video)



In 1998, eighth grade students at Whitwell Middle School began an after-school study of the Holocaust. The goal of this study was to teach students the importance of respecting different cultures as well as understanding the effects of intolerance. The paper clip collection has become a part of the "Children's Holocaust Memorial" created by the students, staff, and community of Whitwell Middle School. The Memorial contains 11 million paper clips housed in an authentic German transport car honoring the lives of all people murdered by the Nazis. Eleven million other paper clips are contained in a monument honoring the children of the Holocaust.

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