

**SYLVAN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Resolution 2018/2019 - #13 (Page 1)**  
**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 16th 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 evidenced in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and

**WHEREAS**, each year the President of the United States declares January 16th 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**, the **SYLVAN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT** declares that it does not find or promote policies that prevent, or otherwise deny 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,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the **SYLVAN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT** acknowledges January 16, 2019, as Religious Freedom Day in the United States of America, and

**FURTHER**, the **SYLVAN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT** 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 Trustees calls on the schools of **SYLVAN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT** 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.

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**Resolution 2018/2019 - #13 (Page 2)**  
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**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION** was introduced at the Regular Board Meeting of the **SYLVAN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT** Board of Trustees held on December 11, 2018, by Board Member \_\_\_\_\_, who made the motion, which motion being duly seconded by Board Member \_\_\_\_\_ was upon roll call vote, carried into Resolution and passed by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT :**

**ABSTENTIONS:**

**I, Debra M. Hendricks**, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the **SYLVAN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT** at a Regular Meeting on December 11, 2018, which Resolution is on file in office of said board.

DATE: December 11, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra M. Hendricks, Secretary  
Board of Trustees