



www.GoGateways.org (800) 929-1163

34 States with Moment of Silence or School Prayer Legislation

The codes below are current as February 2021. State laws and statutes can change at any time. Please verify with your state for accuracy.

ALABAMA

Ala. Code § 16-1-20.4

<http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/CodeofAlabama/1975/coatoc.htm>

§ 16-1-20.4 Period of quiet reflection

(a) The Legislature of Alabama finds that in the hectic society of today all too few citizens are able to experience even a moment of quiet reflection before plunging headlong into the activities of daily life. Young citizens are particularly affected by the absence of an opportunity for a moment of quiet reflection. The Legislature finds that our young, and society as a whole, would be well served if students in the public schools were afforded a moment of quiet reflection at the beginning of each school day and at the opening of school athletic events and graduation ceremonies.

(b) At the opening of school every day in each public school classroom, the teacher in charge shall conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for 60 seconds with the participation of every pupil in the classroom.

(c) At the beginning of every school athletic event and graduation ceremony, the principal of the school, or his or her designee, shall conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for 60 seconds. (*Act 98-381, p. 715, §1; Act 2001-428, p. 556, §1.*)

ARIZONA

Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-342

<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/15/00342.01.htm&Title=15&DocType=ARS>

§ 15-342. The governing board may: Require a period of silence to be observed at the commencement of the first class of the day in the schools. If a governing board chooses to require a period of silence to be observed, the teacher in charge of the room in which the first class is held shall announce that a period of silence not to exceed one minute in duration will be observed for meditation, and during that time no activities shall take place and silence shall be maintained. (*15-342. Discretionary powers L11, Ch. 344, sec. 12. Eff. until 7/1/13. However, this stays in effect "as is" on 7/1/13.*)

ARKANSAS

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-115

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopic/arcod/Default.asp>

§ 6-10-115. Period of Silence

(a) A public school in this state shall observe a one (1) minute period of silence at the beginning of school each school day.

(b) During the period of silence a student may, without interfering with or distracting another student:

- (1) Reflect;
- (2) Pray; or
- (3) Engage in a silent activity.

(c) A teacher or school employee in charge of a public school classroom shall ensure that all students remain silent and do not interfere with or distract another student during the period of silence. (*Acts 1995, No. 397, § 1; 1995, No. 539, § 1; 2013, No. 576, § 1. Legislation is current through the 2013 Regular Session and updates*)

CONNECTICUT

CT Statute 10-16a

http://search.cga.state.ct.us/dtsearch/pub_statutes.html

§ 10-16.a Silent meditation

Each local or regional board of education shall provide opportunity at the start of each school day to allow those students and teachers who wish to do so, the opportunity to observe such time in silent meditation. (*P.A. 75-367, S. 2; P.A. 78-218, S. 13. History: P.A. 78-218 substituted "Each local or regional board of education" for "The board of education of each town and of each regional school district".*)

DELAWARE

Stat Title 14 Section 4101A

<http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c041/index.shtml>

§ 4101A. Use of schools for First Amendment purposes

(b) During the initial period of study on each school day all students in the public schools in Delaware may be granted a brief period of silence, not to exceed 2 minutes in duration, to be used according to the dictates of the individual conscience of each student. During that period of silence, no other activities shall take place. (*...all acts effective as of April 5, 2012, up to and including 78 Del. Laws, c. 223.*)

FLORIDA**Stat 1003.45**

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2021/529/BillText/er/PDF>

§1003.45 Requiring a Moment of Silence

(2) The Legislature finds that in today's hectic society too few persons are able to experience even a moment of quiet reflection before plunging headlong into the activities of daily life. Young persons are particularly affected by the absence of an opportunity for a moment of quiet reflection. The Legislature finds that our youth, and society as a whole, would be well served if students in the public schools were afforded a moment of silence at the beginning of each school day.

(3) The principal of each public school shall require teachers in first period classrooms in all grades to set aside at least 1 minute, but district school board may provide that a brief period, not more than to exceed 2 minutes, daily, for a moment the purpose of silence, during which students may not interfere with other students' participation. A teacher may not make suggestions as to the nature of any reflection that a student may engage in during the moment of silence. (*History.—s. 138, ch. 2002-387, effective July 1, 2021*)

GEORGIA**O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1050**

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2010/title-20/chapter-2/article-21/20-2-1050/>

§ 20-2-1050. Brief period of quiet reflection authorized; nature of period

(a) In each public school classroom, the teacher in charge shall, at the opening of school upon every school day, conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for not more than 60 seconds with the participation of all the pupils therein assembled.

(b) The moment of quiet reflection authorized by subsection (a) of this Code section is not intended to be and shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise but shall be considered as an opportunity for a moment of silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day.

(c) The provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section shall not prevent student initiated voluntary school prayers at schools or school related events which are nonsectarian and non-proselytizing in nature. (*History: Ga. L. 1969, p. 488, § 1; Ga. L. 1994, p. 256, §§ 2, 3.*)

ILLINOIS**105 ILCS 20**

<http://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1008&ChapterID=17>

§ 105 ILCS 20 Silent Reflection and Student Prayer Act**Sec. 1. Silent Reflection**

In each public school classroom, the teacher in charge shall observe a brief period of silence with the participation of all the pupils therein assembled at the opening of every school day. This period shall not be conducted as a religious exercise but shall be an opportunity for silent prayer or for silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day. (*Source: P.A. 95-680, eff. 10-11-07.*)

Sec. 5. Student prayer

In order that the right of every student to the free exercise of religion is guaranteed within the public schools and that each student has the freedom to not be subject to pressure from the State either to engage in or to refrain from religious observation on public school grounds, students in the public schools may voluntarily engage in individually initiated, non-disruptive prayer that, consistent with the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the United States and Illinois Constitutions, is not sponsored, promoted, or endorsed in any manner by the school or any school employee. (*Source: P.A. 92-832, eff. 1-1-03.*)

INDIANA**IC 20-30-5-4.5**

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title20/ar30/ch5.html>

IC 20-30-5-4.5 Moment of Silence

(a) In order that: (1) the right of each student to the free exercise of religion is guaranteed within the schools; and (2) the freedom of each student is subject to the least possible coercion from the state either to engage in or to refrain from religious observation on school grounds; the governing body of each school corporation shall establish the daily observance of a moment of silence in each classroom or on school grounds.

(b) During the moment of silence required by subsection (a), the teacher responsible for a classroom shall ensure that all students remain seated or standing and silent and make no distracting display so that each student may, in the exercise of the student's individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity that does not interfere with, distract, or impede another student in the exercise of the student's individual choice. (*As added by P.L. 78-2005, SEC.6.*)

KANSAS**Stat Ann. Sec 72-5308a**

http://kslegislature.org/li/b2011_12/statute/072_000_0000_chapter/072_053_0000_article/072_053_0008a_section/072_053_0008a_k/

§ 72-5308a. "Periods of silence" authorized

In each public school classroom the teacher in charge may observe a brief period of silence with the participation of all the pupils therein assembled at the opening of every school day. This period shall not be conducted as a religious exercise but shall be an opportunity for silent prayer or for silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day. (*History: L. 1969, ch. 310, § 24; July 1.*)

KENTUCKY

Two codes: Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.175 and 158.183

<http://lrc.ky.gov/KRS/158-00/175.PDF>

§ 158.175 Observation of moment of silence or reflection

(5) At the commencement of the first class of each day in all public schools, the teacher in charge of the room may announce that a moment of silence or reflection not to exceed one (1) minute in duration shall be observed. (*History: Amended 2000 Ky. Acts ch. 235, sec. 1, effective July 14, 2000. -- Amended 1996*)

<http://lrc.ky.gov/KRS/158-00/183.PDF>

§ 158.183 Rights of student

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, a student shall be permitted to voluntarily:

(a) Pray in a public school, vocally or silently, alone or with other students to the same extent and under the same circumstances as a student is permitted to vocally or silently reflect, meditate, or speak on nonreligious matters alone or with other students in the public school; (*Effective: July 15, 1998. History: Created 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 294, sec. 3, effective July 15, 1998*)

LOUISIANA

Rev. Stat §17:2115

<http://legis.la.gov/lss/lss.asp?doc=80209>

§ RS 17:2115 Silent prayer or meditation

A. Each parish, city, and other local public school board in the state shall permit the proper school authorities of each school within its jurisdiction to allow an opportunity, at the start of each school day, for those students and teachers desiring to do so to observe a brief time in silent prayer or meditation. The allowance of a brief time for silent prayer or meditation shall not be intended nor interpreted as state support of or interference with religion, nor shall such time allowance be promoted as a religious exercise and the implementation of this Section shall remain neutral toward religion. (*Acts 1989, No. 380, §2; Acts 1992, No. 320, §1; Acts 1999, No. 904, §1; Acts 2002, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 56, §1.*)

MAINE

Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 20-A § 4805

<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec4805.html>

Title 20-A: Part 3: Chapter 209

§4805. Other special observances

2. Period of silence. The school board of a school administrative unit may require, at the commencement of the first class of each day in all grades in all public schools in their unit, that the teacher in charge of the room in which each class is held shall announce that a period of silence shall be observed for reflection or meditation and during that period silence shall be maintained and no activities engaged in. (*History 1981, c. 693, §§5,8 (NEW). 1983, c. 719, §2 (AMD). 1985, c. 31, §2 (AMD). 1985, c. 103, §3 (AMD). 1991, c. 279, §4 (AMD). 1993, c. 581, §1 (AMD).*)

MARYLAND

ED Code Ann. § 7-104

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/mdcode/>

§ 7-104 Daily period of silent meditation

(a) **Silent meditation.** – Principals and teachers in each public elementary and secondary school in this State may require all students to be present and participate in opening exercises on each morning of a school day and to meditate silently for approximately 1 minute.

(b) **Praying or reading Holy Scripture permitted.** – During this period, a student or teacher may read the Holy Scripture or pray. (*History: An. Code 1957, art. 77, § 78; 1978, ch. 22, § 2.*)

MASSACHUSETTS

General Laws ch71-1A,1B

<http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter71/Section1A>

Part I. Title XII. Chapter 71 Section 1A. Period of Silence. At the commencement of the first class of each day in all grades in all public schools the teacher in charge of the room in which each such class is held shall announce that a period of silence not to exceed one minute in duration shall be observed for personal thoughts, and during any such period, silence shall be maintained and no activities engaged in.

Section 1B. Voluntary Prayer. The school committee of any city or town may permit any child attending its public schools to participate in voluntary prayer with the approval of such child's parents before the commencement of each daily school session. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no city or town which permits such prayer shall be denied any funds for school purposes to which it may be entitled from the commonwealth.

MICHIGAN**380.1565 Act 451**

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(pxjgqb55iljuqmpm0fhp55\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=mcl-380-1565](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(pxjgqb55iljuqmpm0fhp55))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=mcl-380-1565)

§ 380.1565 Providing opportunity to observe time in silent meditation; guidelines

The board of education of a school district may by resolution provide the opportunity during each school day to allow students who wish to do so, the opportunity to observe time in silent meditation. The state board shall develop guidelines which a school board may use in the implementation of this section. (*History: 1976, Act 451, Imd. Eff. Jan. 13, 1977; -- Am. 1977, Act 43, Imd. Eff. June 29, 1977 Popular Name: Act 451*)

MINNESOTA**Chapter 121A.10**

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=121A.10>

§ 121A.10 Moment of Silence

A moment of silence may be observed. (*History: 1996 c 412 art 9 s 10; 1998 c 397 art 9 s 26*)

MISSISSIPPI**Code Ann. § 37-13-4 (2012)**

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/mscode/>

§ 37-13-4 Voluntary participation in prayer generally

It shall be lawful for any teacher or school administrator in any of the schools of the state which are supported, in whole or in part, by the public funds of the state, to permit the voluntary participation by students or others in prayer. Nothing contained in this section shall authorize any teacher or other school authority to prescribe the form or content of any prayer. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to amend or repeal the provisions of Section 37-13-4.1 but shall be considered as supplemental and in addition to the provisions of Section 37-13-4.1. (*History: Sources: Laws, 1979, ch. 374; Laws, 1994, ch. 609, § 2, eff from and after July 1, 1994.*)

MONTANA**Stat 20-7-112**

<http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/mca/20/7/20-7-112.htm>

§ 20-7-112 Sectarian publications prohibited and prayer permitted

A publication of a sectarian or denominational character may not be distributed in any school. Instruction may not be given advocating sectarian or denominational doctrines. However, any teacher, principal, or superintendent may open the school day with a prayer. This section does not prohibit a school library from including the Bible or other religious material having cultural, historical, or educational significance. (*History: En. 75-7521 by Sec. 392, Ch. 5, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 75-7521; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 367, L. 1989.*)

NEVADA**NRS 388.075**

<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-388.html#NRS388Sec075>

NRS 388.075 Every school district shall set aside a period at the beginning of each school day, during which all persons must be silent, for voluntary individual meditation, prayer or reflection by pupils. (*Added to NRS by 1977, 634*)

NEW HAMPSHIRE**Two codes Section 189:1-b and 194:15**

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/xv/189/189-mrg.htm>

§ 189:1-b Freedom of Assembly; Freedom of Religion

I. On each school day, before classes of instruction officially convene in the public schools of this sovereign state, a period of not more than 5 minutes shall be available to those who may wish to exercise their right to freedom of assembly and participate voluntarily in the free exercise of religion.

II. There shall be no teacher supervision of this free exercise of religion, nor shall there be any prescribed or proscribed form or content of prayer. (*Source. 1977, 182:1, eff. Aug. 13, 1977.*)

NEW MEXICO**Stat. Ann. § 22-27-3**

<http://public.nmcompcomm.us/nmpublic/gateway.dll/?f=templates&fn=default.htm>

§ 22-27-3 Moment of silent meditation

Students in the public schools may voluntarily engage in student-initiated moments of silent meditation. (*History: Laws 1995, ch. 72, § 3.*)

NEW YORK *Educ. Law § 3029-a*

<http://statutes.laws.com/new-york/edn/title-4/article-61/3029-a>

29-a. Silent meditation in public schools

1. In each public school classroom, the teacher in charge may, or if so authorized or directed by the board of education by which he is employed, shall, at the opening of school upon every school day, conduct a brief period of silent meditation with the participation of all the pupils there in assembled.

2. The silent meditation authorized by subsection one of this act is not intended to be, and shall not be conducted as, a religious service or exercise, but may be considered as an opportunity for silent meditation on a religious theme by those who are so disposed, or a moment of silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day. As used in subdivision one of this section the term "participation" shall be construed to permit seated participation and not to require any pupil to stand.

NORTH CAROLINA *§ 115C-47*

http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter_115C/GS_115C-47.html

§ 115C-47. Powers and duties generally

(29) To authorize the observance of a Moment of Silence.

To afford students and teachers a moment of quiet reflection at the beginning of each day in the public schools, to create a boundary between school time and non-school time, and to set a tone of decorum in the classroom that will be conducive to discipline and learning, each local board of education may adopt a policy to authorize the observance of a moment of silence at the commencement of the first class of each day in all grades in the public schools. Such a policy shall provide that the teacher in charge of the room in which each class is held may announce that a period of silence not to exceed one minute in duration shall be observed and that during that period silence shall be maintained and no one may engage in any other activities. Such period of silence shall be totally and completely unstructured and free of guidance or influence of any kind from any sources.

NORTH DAKOTA *Cent. Code § 15.1-19-03.1*

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t15-1c19.pdf>

§ 15.1-19-03.1 Recitation of prayer - Period of Silence

1. A student may voluntarily pray aloud or participate in religious speech at any time *before*, during, or after the school day to the same extent a student may voluntarily speak or participate in secular speech.

2. A school board, school administrator, or teacher may not impose any restriction on the time, place, manner, or location of any student-initiated religious speech or prayer which exceeds the restriction imposed on students' secular speech.

3. A school board may, by resolution, allow a classroom teacher to impose up to one minute of silence for meditation, reflection, or prayer at the beginning of each school day. (*Current April 28, 2011*)

OHIO *Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.601*

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3313>

§ 3313.601 Moment of silence - free exercise or expression of religious beliefs

The board of education of each school district may provide for a moment of silence each school day for prayer, reflection, or meditation upon a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. No board of education, school, or employee of the school district shall require a pupil to participate in a moment of silence provided for pursuant to this section. No board of education shall prohibit a classroom teacher from providing in the teacher's classroom reasonable periods of time for activities of a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. No pupil shall be required to participate in such activities if they are contrary to the religious convictions of the pupil or the pupil's parents or guardians. No board of education of a school district shall adopt any policy or rule respecting or promoting an establishment of religion or prohibiting any pupil from the free, individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the pupil's religious beliefs in any primary or secondary school. The board of education may limit the exercise or expression of the pupil's religious beliefs as described in this section to lunch periods or other non-instructional time periods when pupils are free to associate. (*Effective Date: 08-01-2002*)

OKLAHOMA *Title 70 §11-101.1 and §11-101.2*

http://www.ok.gov/sde/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/documents/files/OSDE_Law%20Book_rev_dec11_13.pdf

Section 394. Voluntary Prayer in School

§ 11-101.1 The board of education of each school district shall permit those students and teachers who wish to do so to participate in voluntary prayer. Nothing in this act shall be construed to be in conflict with Section 70-11-101 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. (*Historical Data: Laws 1980, HB 1608, c. 72, § 1, emerg. eff. April 14, 1980*)

Section 395. Minute of Silence

§ 11-101.2 The board of education of each school district shall ensure that the public schools within the district observe approximately one minute of silence each day for the purpose of allowing each student, in the exercise of his or her individual choice, to reflect, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity that does not interfere with, distract, or impede other students in the exercise of their individual choices. The Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma is hereby authorized to intervene in any legal proceeding to enforce the provisions of this act and shall represent any school district or employee named as a defendant therein. Any school district or employee named as a defendant in any proceeding to enforce the provisions of this act shall within five (5) days of receiving service of summons notify the Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma of the pendency of the action. *(Historical data added by laws 2002, SB 815, c. 353, § 1, eff. August 23, 2002)*

PENNSYLVANIA 24 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 15-1516.1

<http://statelaws.findlaw.com/state-codes.html>

§ 15-1516.1 Meditation and prayer periods

(a) In each public school classroom, the teacher in charge may, or if so authorized or directed by the board of school directors by which he is employed, shall, at the opening of school upon every school day, conduct a brief period of silent prayer or meditation with the participation of all the pupils therein assembled.

(b) The silent prayer or meditation authorized by subsection (a) of this section is not intended to be, and shall not be conducted as, a religious service or exercise, but shall be considered as an opportunity for silent prayer or meditation on a religious theme by those who are so disposed, or a moment of silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day. *(CREDIT(S) 1949, March 10, P.L. 30, art. XV, § 1516.1, added 1972, Dec. 6, P.L. 1412, No. 305, § 1, imd. effective. 24 P.S. § 15-1516.1, PA ST 24 P.S. § 15-1516. Current through 2012 Regular Session Act 33)*

RHODE ISLAND R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-12-3.1

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-12/16-12-3.1.HTM>

§ 16-12-3.1 Period of silent meditation

At the opening of every school day in all grades in all public schools the teacher in charge of the room in which each class is held shall announce that a period of silence not to exceed one minute in duration shall be observed for meditation, and during this period silence shall be maintained and no activities engaged in. *(History of Section (P.L. 1977, ch.84, § 1.)*

SOUTH CAROLINA S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-443

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t59c001.php>

§ 59-1-443 Mandatory silence at beginning of each school day

All schools shall provide for a minute of mandatory silence at the beginning of each school day. *(History: 1995 Act No.145, Part II, Section 80. The unannotated South Carolina Code on the General Assembly's website is now current through the 2011 session.)*

TENNESSEE Code Ann. § 49-6-1004

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/tncode/>

§ 49-6-1004. Period of silence or prayer

(a) In order for all students and teachers to prepare themselves for the activities of the day, a period of silence of approximately one (1) minute in duration shall be maintained in each grade in public schools at the beginning of each school day. At the opening of the first class each day, it is the responsibility of each teacher in charge of each class to call the students to order and announce that a moment of silence is to be observed. The teacher shall not indicate or suggest to the students any action to be taken by them during this time but shall maintain silence for the full time. At the end of this time, the teacher shall indicate resumption of the class in an appropriate fashion and may at that time make school announcements or conduct any other class business before commencing instruction.

(b) It is lawful for any teacher in any of the schools of the state that are supported, in whole or in part, by the public funds of the state, to permit the voluntary participation by students or others in prayer. Nothing contained in this section shall authorize any teacher or other school authority to prescribe the form or content of any prayer.

(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), nonsectarian and non-proselytizing voluntary benedictions, invocations or prayers that are initiated and given by a student volunteer or student volunteers may be permitted on public school property during school-related noncompulsory student assemblies, school-related student sporting events and school-related commencement ceremonies. Such permission shall not be construed to indicate any support, approval or sanction by the state or any governmental personnel or official of the contents of the benedictions, invocations or prayers or to be the promotion or establishment of any religion, religious belief or sect. *(History: Acts 1968, ch. 492, § 1; 1976, ch. 463, § 1; 1982, ch. 899, § 1; 1983, ch. 18, § 1; T.C.A., §§ 49-1922, 49-1923; Acts 1993, ch. 534, § 1, Current through the 2013 Regular Session.)*

TEXAS

Education Code Ann § 25.082

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/>

§ 25.082. Minute of Silence

(d) The board of trustees of each school district shall provide for the observance of one minute of silence at each school in the district following the recitation of the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags under Subsection (b). During the one-minute period, each student may, as the student chooses, reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity that is not likely to interfere with or distract another student. Each teacher or other school employee in charge of students during that period shall ensure that each of those students remains silent and does not act in a manner that is likely to interfere with or distract another student. (Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch.260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995. Amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg. ch. 126, Sec. 1, 2, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.)

UTAH

Code Ann. § 53A-11-901.5

http://le.utah.gov/~code/TITLE53A/htm/53A11_090105.htm

§ 53A-11-901.5. Period of Silence

A teacher may provide for the observance of a period of silence each school day in a public school. (Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 10, 1997 General Session)

VIRGINIA

Code Ann. § 22.1-203

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+22.1-203>

§ 22.1-203. Daily observance of one minute of silence

In order that the right of every pupil to the free exercise of religion be guaranteed within the schools and that the freedom of each individual pupil be subject to the least possible pressure from the Commonwealth either to engage in, or to refrain from, religious observation on school grounds, the school board of each school division shall establish the daily observance of one minute of silence in each classroom of the division. During such one-minute period of silence, the teacher responsible for each classroom shall take care that all pupils remain seated and silent and make no distracting display to the end that each pupil may, in the exercise of his or her individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede other pupils in the like exercise of individual choice. The Office of the Attorney General shall intervene and shall provide legal defense of this law. (Code 1950, § 22-234.1; 1976, c. 103; 1980, c. 559; 2000, c. 1022.)

§ 22.1-203.1. Student-initiated prayer

In order that the right of every pupil to the free exercise of religion be guaranteed within the schools and that the freedom of each individual pupil not be subject to pressure from the Commonwealth either to engage in, or to refrain from, religious observation on school grounds, consistent with constitutional principles of freedom of religion and separation of church and state, students in the public schools may voluntarily engage in student-initiated prayer. (1994, c. 799.)

Gateways School Prayer Card

To help students begin each school day in prayer, Gateways has created a prayer card that can be used in the classroom during the moment of silence. The size of a business card, these prayer cards easily fit in a wallet, or binder.



To order your pack of prayer cards click the link below:

[*Gateways School Prayer Card*](#)