



The Merry Christmas Law, HB 308, passed the Texas Legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support and was signed into law in 2013. This new law guarantees the First Amendment freedom of our children, teachers, parents, and school administrators to acknowledge Christmas on school grounds without fear of censorship, persecution or litigation. Please help spread the word by sharing this information with your school district and let's help end the War on Christmas in Texas!

Merry Christmas Law Overview

- Public schools and staff can acknowledge and educate students on Christmas, and other holidays including Hanukkah
- School displays can include a Nativity Scene, Christmas Tree, a Menorah, Santa Claus, Reindeer and more
- Public schools, staff, and students can use greetings such as "Merry Christmas," "Happy Hanukkah," "Happy Holidays" or others

Attacks on Christmas in Texas Public Schools

- Students banned from passing out candy cane pens with a Christmas message
- Students not allowed to use the words "Merry Christmas" in letters to our troops
- Renaming of Christmas Tree to "Holiday Tree" and Christmas Party to "Winter Party"
- Hostility and overreaction to the presence of Santa Claus in school

Can my school acknowledge Christmas? Yes. HB 308 guarantees the freedom of acknowledging Christmas for teachers and students in our public schools without fear of censorship, persecution or litigation.

Can teachers and students face punishment for talking about Christmas? No. HB 308 respects the first amendment rights of students and staff and tells school districts that they don't have to be "speech police" for Christmas expressions. Teachers and students in Texas no longer need fear political correctness run amok, that have led to Christmas Trees being replaced with "Holiday Trees" and simple greetings such as "Merry Christmas" landing a student or teacher in hot water.

Does this new law force school districts to teach about Christmas and other holidays? No, HB 308 states that a school district "may educate" students about the history and cultural impact of Christmas, Hanukkah, and other holidays.

Does this new law force school districts, staff or students to endorse a particular religion? No. HB 308 specifically states that displays "may not include a message that encourages adherence to a particular religious belief."

Please share this handout with your school district and share how your school is acknowledging Christmas at

MerryChristmasTexas.com!

