



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM MUSLIM PARENTS IN DPS

DPS is committed to providing a learning environment free from unlawful discrimination and harassment.

### Will my child be informed when a food item contains a pork product?

Food and Nutrition Services recently instituted a “pig” decal that signifies when a food item contains a pork product. In general, DPS breakfasts and lunches seldom contain pork. You may discuss questions or concerns with your school’s kitchen manager.

### Does DPS allow my child to miss school for Muslim holidays?

Yes. DPS Attendance Regulation JHB-R includes religious observance as a valid reason for an excused absence. Communicate with your school in advance so they know the holiday is approaching and your child will be absent.

### Is my child allowed to pray at school?

Yes. DPS does not discriminate against students based on religious beliefs, and students are permitted to pray and exercise their religion at school as long as these activities do not interfere with the school environment. We encourage families to talk with school leaders to ensure their religious needs are accommodated in a non-disruptive way.

### What can I do when my child is being harassed for being Muslim?

The student or their guardian is encouraged to promptly report the incident to a school leader, counselor, teacher, or the district’s Student Compliance Officer (Office of Student Equity & Opportunity) verbally or in writing using form AC-E2: “Discrimination/ Harassment Complaint Form. Let school leadership know if you feel the incident creates an unsafe environment for your child. Talk to your child about his or her feelings, and support your child in processing any residual feelings of fear or anxiety. Students can also make reports through Safe2Tell at [1-877-542-7233 \(Safe2Tell.org\)](tel:1-877-542-7233) or call the Family and Community Helpline at [720-423-3054](tel:720-423-3054).

### Do DPS teachers receive cultural sensitivity training?

Yes. All new DPS teachers are required to take 1.5 hours of bias awareness training and 1.5 hours of culturally responsive training. The district offers several optional programs, including professional development in culturally responsive education, which comprises 12 hours of foundational and advanced training; a two-day training called DPS Aspire for teacher leaders and managers; and foundational and advanced bias awareness training for all staff.

### Does DPS offer Arabic as a language option?

Currently, South High School offers Arabic I for students who wish to learn Arabic, as well as Heritage Arabic for students with an Arabic language background.

### What other support does DPS offer for students whose native language is Arabic?

Schools are allocated one paraprofessional native language tutor for every 15 native speakers of a language to support students in their ELA classrooms. Currently, the schools with Arabic-speaking native language tutors are: Denver Green School, Ellis, Hamilton, Holm, McMeen, Merrill, Montclair, Place Bridge, Samuels, South, Joe Shoemaker, Southmoor and University Park.

### Does DPS offer translation and interpretation services for parents?

Yes, these services are provided free of charge to parents. If you will need translation or interpretation service, please ask your school administrator to submit a request with sufficient notice (seven days, if possible) to DPS’ Multicultural Services office. For urgent or unexpected needs, every school has access to a phone interpretation language line.