



## THE VISION

To lessen and someday end religious violence and hatred, every member of a community must be fully educated about the realities of a living in a diverse society. What's more, each of us must recognize the responsibility we have to protect the rights of others.

## THE PROBLEM

In recent decades, as communities diversified, violence and hate speech increased across all levels of society. Unfortunately, there have been few resources and trainings for educators navigating religious freedom and religious literacy issues in their curricula or interactions with students, parents and community members.

## THE PLAN

To meet the needs of pre-service and in-service teachers, the Religious Freedom Center will offer a combination of Institutes and professional development workshops, webinars and classroom materials. We will also offer expertise to school districts and independent schools navigating religious liberty issues that arise in an increasingly pluralistic society.

Explore the menu for the program that helps you skillfully negotiate issues relating to religion and public schools.



## ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MODULES

Designed with teachers' and administrators' busy schedules in mind, our free professional development modules are 100 percent online — accessible anytime, anywhere — and self-paced, interactive and focused on the practical application of religious studies in the classroom. Educators decide how much or how little time to spend learning. Each one-hour module includes readings, videos and/or podcasts, interactive games, surveys, learning resources and an online discussion forum.

Start learning at [newseumed.org/religion/](https://newseumed.org/religion/)

## ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

Visit [newseumed.org/religion/](https://newseumed.org/religion/) for primary sources, interactive tools, text sets, lesson plans and more about religious liberty and the First Amendment.

## INSTITUTES

Convening K-12 educators in the nation's capital to explore issues of religious freedom and diversity in the classroom. Educators will learn about religious studies as an academic discipline and have opportunity to:

- **Increase professional competence** related to the disciplinary concepts and tools of religious studies as an academic discipline;
- **Increase personal confidence** in teaching about religion in constitutionally appropriate ways that engage key stakeholders in your school context;
- **Develop working relationships** with subject matter experts and curricular resource providers.

Visit [ReligiousFreedomCenter.org/Events](https://ReligiousFreedomCenter.org/Events) for upcoming summer Institute dates.

TEACH ABOUT RELIGION ACADEMICALLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY IN YOUR SCHOOL TODAY



RELIGIOUS  
FREEDOM  
CENTER

FREEDOM FORUM  
INSTITUTE

[RELIGIOUSFREEDOMCENTER.ORG](https://ReligiousFreedomCenter.org)  
555 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

The highest quality professional development occurs when educators and experts are brought together in one place to learn, discuss and explore issues relevant to daily classroom teaching and management.

The Religious Freedom Center has developed nine in-person professional development workshops for groups of teachers, administrators and district officials that empower these stakeholders to skillfully negotiate issues relating to religion and public schools.

Workshops can be given in-person at your school or online via webinar.

Looking to dive deeper? Contact us at [religion@newseum.org](mailto:religion@newseum.org), to learn more about our custom consultancy program.

## CIVIL DIALOGUE

- Introductory** Educators will be introduced to dialogue theory, explore the benefits and challenges of implementing civil dialogue in the classroom, especially around contentious issues. Educators will learn to create learning environments that promote dialogue and exploration around many perspectives. They will learn to introduce basic dialogue skills to students through interactive lessons that can be easily inserted into lesson plans.
- Intermediate** Building upon the introductory session, educators will learn practical strategies for handling difficult dialogue in the classroom. They'll learn to move students towards complexity instead of conflict and learn practical tools for cooling things down in the "heat of the moment."
- Advanced** Educators will be trained as facilitators of dialogue. This train-the-trainer workshop will give educators tools to train student leaders, teachers and administrators in the basic skills of dialogue.

## RELIGIOUS LITERACY

- Introductory** Educators will be introduced to influential teaching models that provide guidance and frameworks for integrating and enhancing the academic study of religions in their classrooms. They'll also draw from the legal/political consensus reached by educational, civil liberties and religious organizations that agree public schools can, and should, promote the academic study of religions across the curriculum.
- Intermediate** Educators will build upon the model introduced in the introductory session while examining the theories, methodologies and issues involved in the academic study, research and teaching of religion. Participants will practice using a 3Is model (introduce, investigate, intersect) to integrate the study of religion into existing lesson plans.
- Advanced** The Religious Freedom Center project will convene a panel of religious studies scholars and experts to meet with educators and answer questions about specific religious traditions as well as discuss best practices for bringing guest speakers into the classroom.

## LEGAL LITERACY

- Introductory** Educators and administrators will be introduced to the application of First Amendment principles to real-life challenges they face each day in religiously diverse classrooms. Designed to give participants a clear understanding of the legal rights of all public school stakeholders, educators will leave with practical knowledge and guidelines outlining how to handle religious literacy and religious liberty issues in the classroom academically and constitutionally.
- Intermediate** Educators and administrators will trace the history of religion and public schools as it relates to the U.S. Supreme Court while exploring real-life case studies of districts that have faced challenging religious liberty scenarios.
- Advanced** Religious freedom experts will meet with the district's board of education and superintendent to review and develop First Amendment policies on the constitutional role of religion in public schools. These policy reviews will ensure the district's leadership is fully informed and practically prepared to address religious freedom issues as they arise.



See more offerings on back page. —>