

404: Student Expression and Prayer

1. Purpose:

The following statements are to be considered the policy of St. George Academy regarding the issues of prayer at graduation exercises, free exercise of religion by individuals, freedom of speech regarding matters of religion, Deity, or personal belief. The Board of Directors will not undertake prayer or support any political candidate.

2. Policy:

2.1. Prayer at Graduation Exercises

2.1.1. Prayer, where students are impacted, shall not be sponsored by St. George Academy.

2.1.2. Student-led prayers at graduation, initiated by, and lead by students are not forbidden by this policy.

2.2. Free Exercise of Religion

St. George Academy recognizes the right of free exercise of religion by individuals, including students, teachers, and other employees. Therefore, the SGA shall do nothing that will impair the rights or ability of such individuals to the free exercise of their religion in activities not sponsored by SGA but held on SGA property. In addition, during discretionary time on campus, the same persons shall not be restricted or discouraged by the staff of St. George Academy in their religious expressions, including prayer.

2.3. Freedom of Speech

In accordance with freedom of religion and freedom of speech, St George Academy shall not strike out nor inhibit any portions of graduation talks, any classroom discussion, or academic activity solely on the basis that religion, Deity, or personal belief is mentioned. In the classroom, instruction covering religious subject matter is permitted, provided the teacher does not advocate for a particular dogma or belief system as per Utah Code [53G-10-202](#). No regulation shall be made of the content of statements of non-SGA groups or individuals using SGA facilities regardless of participation of employees or students in said non-SGA sponsored activities solely on the basis that religion, Deity, or personal belief is mentioned.

2.4 Participation Waiver

A student may refrain from participating in any school activity due to their parent's or their own religious belief or right of conscience.