

## **2017**

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority** – Banned a D.C. bus ad by the Archdiocese of Washington because it featured the words, "Find the Perfect Gift." It neither mentioned nor depicted Christ.

**University of Minnesota** – Santa Claus, Christmas trees and the colors red and green are examples of inappropriate "religious iconography" during the holiday season, according to a paper distributed during a "Respecting Religious Diversity" event. "Jewish Hanukkah" is targeted, too, with menorahs and the colors blue and white also described as being "not appropriate."

## **2015**

**University of Tennessee** –The Office of Diversity and Inclusion at UT issued guidelines indicating which kinds of "holiday" celebrations would be tolerated, and which would not be. Best of all was their admonition not to hold "a Christmas party in disguise."

### **December 2**

**Marlborough, NH** – The school superintendent banned use of the word "Christmas" from all Christmas events, including celebrations at the local American Legion post. He said he was constitutionally obligated to censor Christmas. Bill Donohue suggested that he contact the United States Congress and demand that it rescind Christmas as a national holiday.

### **December 15**

**Johnson County, KY** – The superintendent of schools censored all references to religion in this year's Christmas celebrations. Specifically, he banned a presentation of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at one school.

## **2014**

### **December 15**

**Orono, ME** – An administrator at the University of Maine emailed other employees advising them not to display any "decoration that could be perceived as religious" including "xmas trees, wreaths, xmas presents, candy canes, etc."

## **2013**

### **November 15**

**West Columbia, SC** – The American Humanist Association threatened to sue the

East Point Academy charter school over its annual Christmas toy drive "because the purpose and effect of Operation Christmas Child is to induce impoverished children to convert to Christianity."

### **December 5**

*Frisco, TX* – Students who attended Nichols Elementary School's "Winter Party" were banned from talking about Christmas or any other religious holiday.

### **December 5**

*Nashville, TN* – Two shoppers were asked to leave the Opry Mills Mall because they were dressed in Christmas costumes and wishing people a Merry Christmas.

### **December 12**

*Kings Park, NY* – Officials at the Ralph J. Osgood Intermediate School decreed that the version of "Silent Night" performed during the school's concert would delete all religious references. Thus "Silent Night" was sung with lyrics such as "Holy infant," "Christ the Savior," and "Jesus Lord at thy birth" omitted.

## **2011**

### **November 3**

The Air Force apologized after being accused of religious intolerance by the Military Religious Freedom Foundation for promoting Operation Christmas Child. Sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian group, it sends Christmas gifts to impoverished children worldwide.

## **2009**

### **December 1-4**

*Chelmsford, MA* – The Byam Elementary School asked parents to donate holiday gifts to the school's holiday gift shop. Shopping guidelines specified "No Christmas, Chanukah, or religious items," and "No Santa, candy canes or stockings."

### **December 14**

*Slatington, PA* – Santa was banned from his gift-giver role in the Northern Lehigh Valley School District in Pennsylvania; instead the district mascot, the Bulldog, got the job.

### **December 18-19**

*Benton, AR* – A children's play, "Christmas Hang-Ups," included a hula girl. The woman in charge of the play announced that the hula girl represented the reason for the season: "The meaning of Christmas is to not judge each other."

## 2007

### **December**

During a "Winter Concert" at a public elementary school in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was performed, but the word "Christmas" was replaced throughout the song with the word "winter."

## 2006

Penn State's Associate Professor of Diversity Education issued guidelines for holiday parties: "neutral" decorations—"flowers, balloons, candles and snowflakes."

**Commack, NY** – Supervisors at Baumann & Sons Buses reprimanded a school bus driver for wearing a Santa cap during his rounds in the Commack School District.

## 2005

**Jefferson, GA** – The Jackson County School System sent a letter to teachers prohibiting them from wearing "any pins, angels, crosses, clothing" with any religious connotation or affiliation, and from referring to any party as a "Christmas" party.

**Texas public school teachers** were told that they could not mention the word "Christmas."

## 2004

**Sacramento, CA** – Three first-grade teachers were ordered by a superior not to let the word "Christmas" slip from their lips.

## 2001

**Rochester, MN** – Two 13-year-old middle school students were disciplined following a holiday skit. Their offense was wearing red and green scarves and ending the skit by saying, "We hope you all have a merry Christmas."

**Plymouth, IL** – A second-grade teacher was warned by the principal not to read a book about Christmas to her students. The book was available in the school library.

**Kensington, MD** – The town of Kensington officially banned Santa Claus at its annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

*Northdale, FL* – Government officials banned icicle lights that some residents wanted put up on public property as part of the Christmas season.

**1997**

*Hillsborough, NJ* – The school board decided to change the name of the Christmas holiday to the "December season" in order to avoid "religious overtones." Classroom gift-giving was also banned as a religious activity.

**1996**

*Sacramento, CA* – In a public school a ban was placed on celebrating Christmas because school officials held that Christianity "was not a world religion."