

# The Religious Freedom Rights of Parents and Students in Schools

*Religious Freedom Annual Review*

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# Broad Principles

Goal: Learn broad principles we can  
apply in a variety of settings



# Religious Freedom: A Great Gift

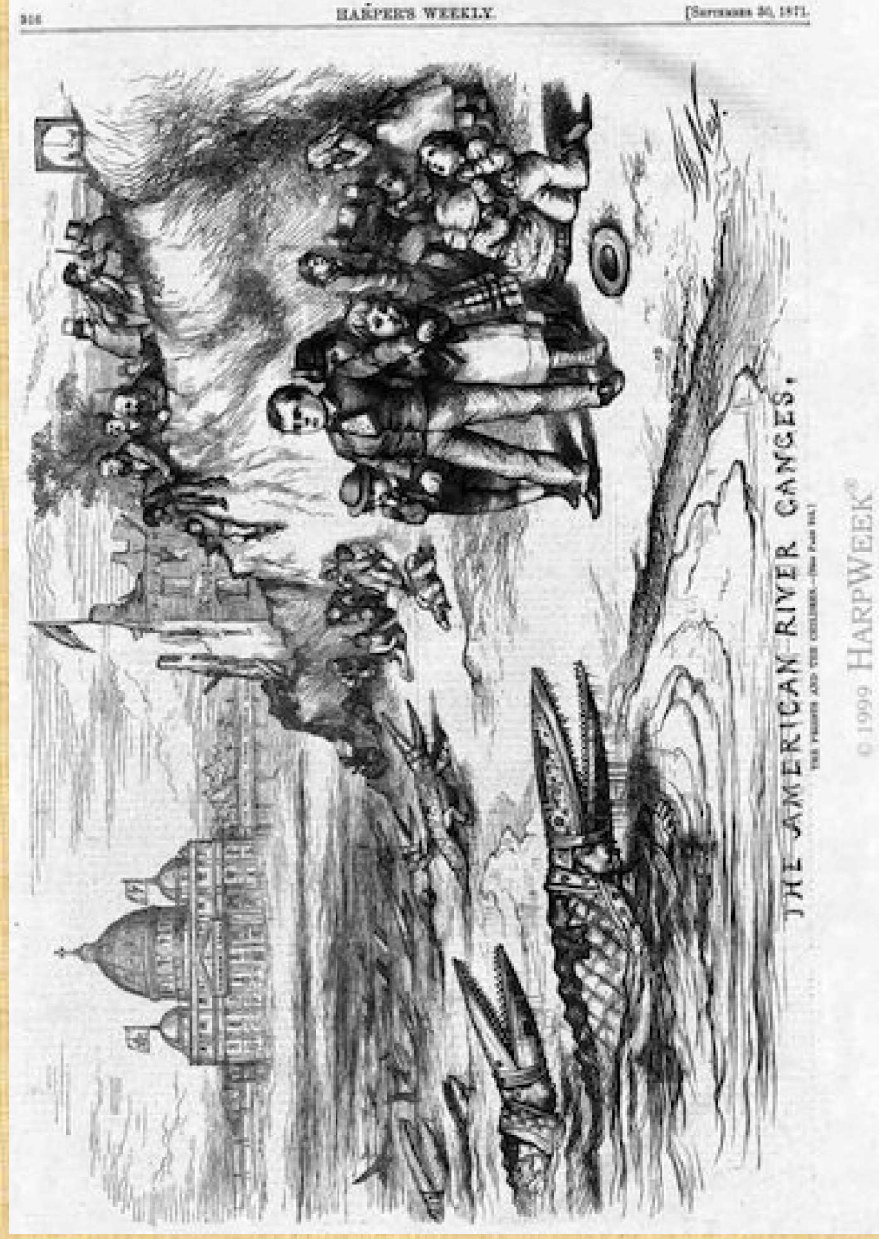


# Religious Freedom: A Great Gift





# A Little History

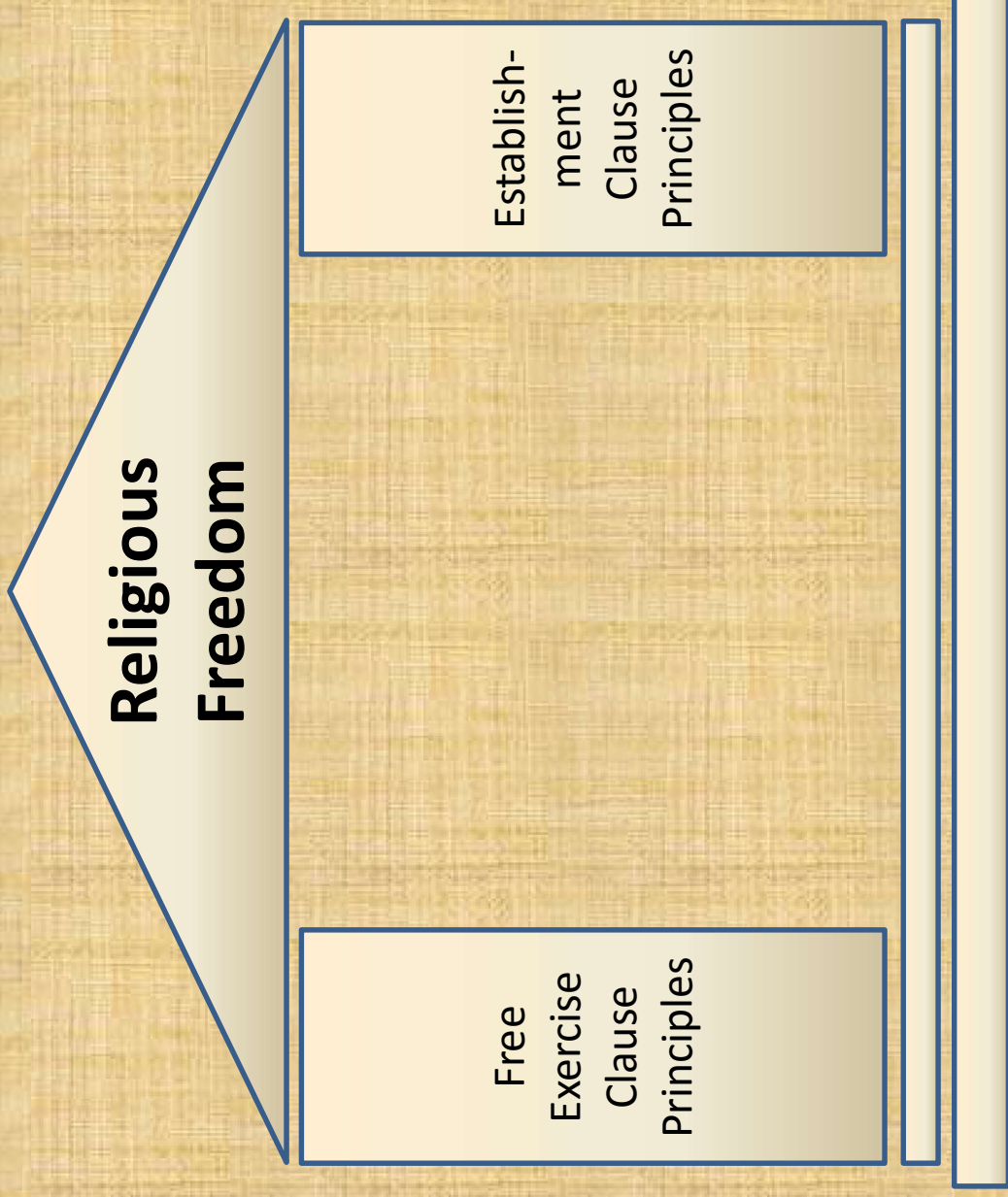


# Religion Clauses of the First Amendment: the First Freedoms

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;



# What Is Religious Freedom?



# The Clauses in Play

Free Exercise: Public schools should not burden a student's religious exercise (defined broadly) except in rare circumstances.

No Establishment: Public schools should not promote or favor one religion (or non-religion) over another.



# Children/Parents Have Rights



Students do not shed their constitutional rights  
at the schoolhouse gate.

# Free Exercise

Schools may not burden a student's free exercise of religion, except in rare circumstances.





# Free Exercise: Curriculum

Parents and Students Have a Right to Opt Out of Most Lessons



# Student-on-Student Coercion





# Must Treat All Equally

Schools Must Treat All Groups Equally  
This Is True Among All Religious Groups and  
When Discussing Religious v. Non-Religious  
Groups

# Coercion/Endorsement





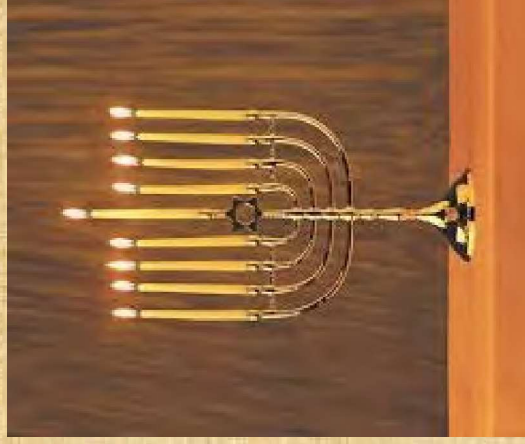
# Right to Advocate

Parents and Students Have a Right to Advocate  
for Their Positions



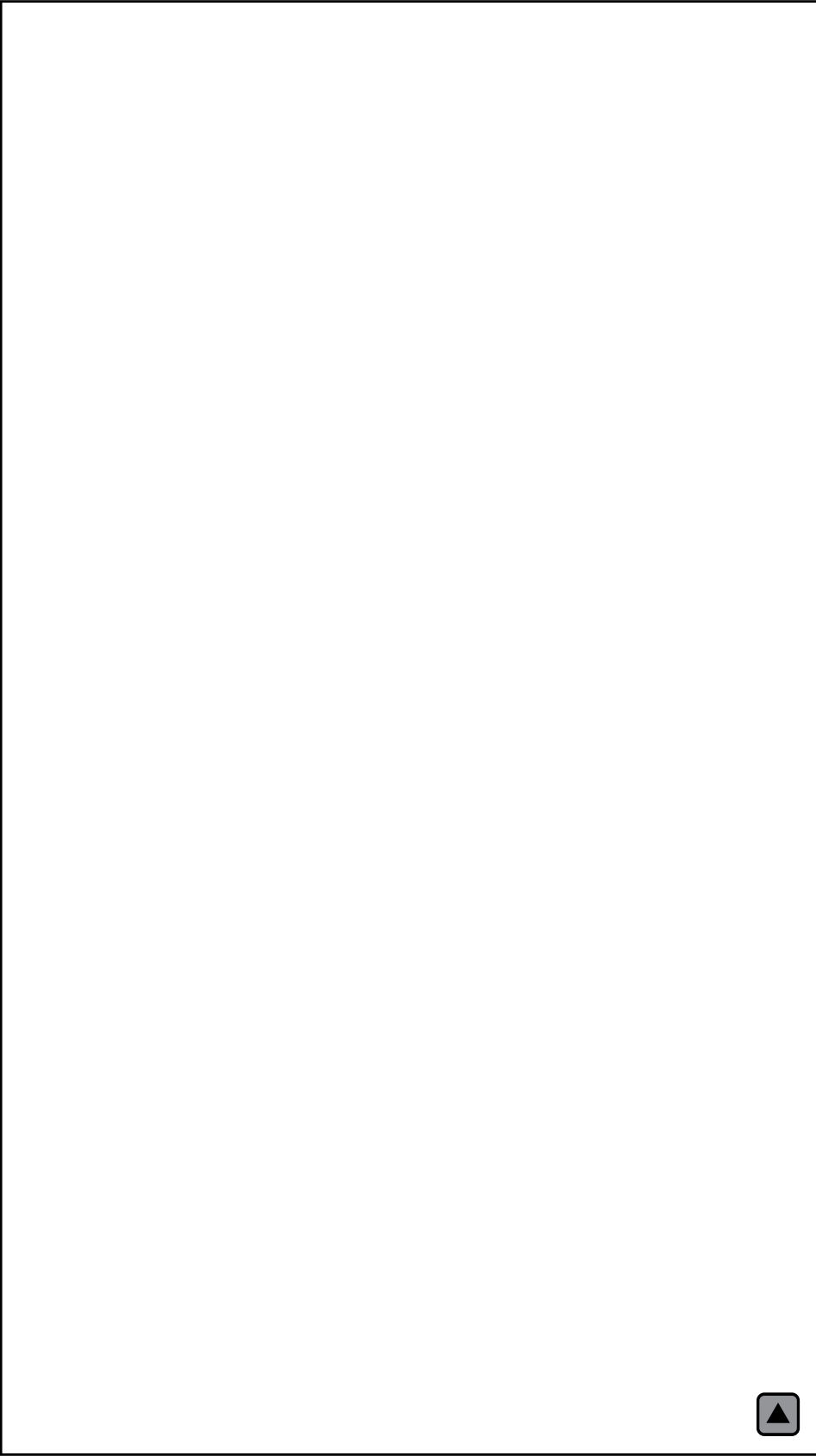


# Holidays





# Some Examples: Prayer in Texas



# Some Examples: Prayer in Texas





# Some Examples: Washington



## Some Examples: Student-Led Prayers?

- Student-led prayers at all home football games.
- The school approves the process for allowing the prayers and the process for determining who will pray
- But the students vote on whether to have a prayer at each game and select the person to give it.



# What Freedom Looks Like

