



# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • [www.ffrf.org](http://www.ffrf.org)

September 30, 2010

**SENT VIA U.S. MAIL & FAX  
(203) 946-7300**

COPY

Dr. Reginald Mayo  
Superintendent  
New Haven Public Schools  
54 Meadow St  
New Haven CT 06510

Dear Dr. Mayo:

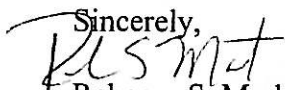
Our national organization, which works to protect the constitutional principle of separation between state and church, previously wrote to you regarding state/church concerns occurring in your district. We write again to alert you to another concern relating to a prayer event conducted at Wilbur Cross High School.

It is our information and understanding that on September 22, 2010, a "See You at the Pole" event was held by students at Wilbur Cross High School. Our complainant informs us that the attached event flier was posted throughout the school. As you will note, there is no information indicating the sponsor of the event. There is also no disclaimer properly disassociating the school from the religious prayer event.

The school district should not approve fliers or posters for distribution or display unless an appropriate disclaimer is included to disassociate the school district from the religious organization or event. Without such a disclaimer, students are apt to believe that the school is endorsing the prayer engaged in during the "See You at the Pole" event. Any future advertisements, fliers, or posters advertising religious groups' events at the school should, at a minimum, contain language to remove any perception of government endorsement. *See Hills v. Scottsdale Unified Sch. Dist.*, 329 F.3d 1044, 1054 (9th Cir. 2003) ("Indeed, there is even less danger of a perception of 'endorsement' for materials containing an express disclaimer that the school does not endorse or sponsor the organization promoting the activity.").

We ask that you take action to ensure that future postings contain proper disclaimers. We would appreciate a response in writing indicating the steps you are taking to remedy these concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Rebecca S. Markert  
Staff Attorney

Enclosure

cc: Principal Rose Coggins