

7 Ways Families Can Stand Up for Muslim Students



ISB Atlanta

ISLAM. SERVICE. BRIDGE-BUILDING.

Supporting your Muslim child in school isn't about constant battles—it's about consistent communication, relationship-building, and practical steps that foster belonging. When parents engage respectfully and partner with educators, they spark lasting, inclusive change for all students.

1. Keep the Conversation Going

New school year, new challenges. Regularly check in: how are they feeling being Muslim at school—Ramadan, food, holidays, anything. Help them speak up and know they're not alone.

Ask: "Did anything at school make you feel proud, uncomfortable, or different today?"

2: Connect with Educators

Effective communication starts early: attend school events and introduce yourself. Share key info like dietary needs or prayer times. Be proactive, not pushy.

Offer: A short note to the school about food restrictions (no pork, gelatin, non-halal meat) and offering halal-friendly treats can avoid problems and build trust.

3: Encourage Inclusion

Representation matters. Advocate for recognition of Ramadan, Eid, and Muslim Heritage Month. Suggest inclusive activities—think Winter over Santa.

Ask: "Can we make winter crafts more inclusive so all students feel welcome?"

4: Call Out Bias

Sadly, bias and bullying still happen - be ready for it. Push for staff training and inclusive lessons year-round. If something feels off or if there has been a negative experience, report it and follow up.

Do: Document incidents and expect accountability.

5. Enrich the Curriculum

Muslims shaped history—make sure that's reflected. From algebra to civil rights, push for accurate, respectful representation.

Recommend: There are many resources to supplement the curriculum that include Muslim contributions

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6. Recognize Sensitive Subjects

During lessons on 9/11 or while fasting in Ramadan, Muslim students may face bullying, insults, or teasing. If a student is targeted, request intervention. Silence in the face of bias sends the message that prejudice is acceptable—and that's never okay.

Offer: Guidance is available for addressing difficult subjects in the classroom.

7. Demand Strong Policies

Request that Islamophobia and anti-Muslim behavior is included in anti-bullying rules. Unequivocal policies can mean real protection.

Advocate: Request that the school defines and responds to Islamophobia.

Want More? ISB Atlanta Can Help

Our Programs:

- **SB Atlanta's Speakers Bureau:** We offer trained speakers on a wide range of topics. Our "Straight Talk" program is designed especially for Muslim teens, offering them an opportunity to share experiences and gain skills that empower them to make a difference.
- **Teachers' Guides and Training:** We have developed Muslim resources specifically for educators and school administrators. Our Speakers Bureau has presentations designed for teacher in-service training.
- **Bring ISB Atlanta into the Classroom:** Our presenters regularly lead classroom discussions, provide resources and participate in interfaith panels organized by schools.

To request a presentation or workshop, visit:
<https://isbatlanta.org/request-a-speaker>

ISB Atlanta's Resource Center

ISB Atlanta has created and curated a variety of resources for families, educators and others that are available for free. We have downloadable fact sheets, teaching guides and videos the cover subjects like Ramadan, anti-Muslim bullying and managing difficult conversations. We are constantly updating and adding to our Resource Center in response to requests and current needs. Check it out at www.isbatlanta.org/resource-center