

Williamson County Board of Education



Adopted Date:
3/19/01; Rev. 8/15/16

4.804

INCLUSION OF RELIGIOUS CONTENT IN
INSTRUCTION, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
AND CURRICULUM

1 The Williamson County Board of Education is committed to providing accurate and comprehensive
2 instruction in social studies and recognizes that religious events, beliefs, and figures have played a
3 significant role in world history, including the founding of the United States and the State of
4 Tennessee.

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6 Any inclusion of religion in textbooks, instructional materials, curriculum or academic standards
7 shall be for educational purposes only. Teachers and school personnel are prohibited from using
8 curriculum about religion to proselytize, promote or show bias to one particular religion in an
9 attempt to indoctrinate or establish any religion or religious belief over another. Educational
10 content which consists of religious themes shall be presented only in a factual objective and
11 respectful manner.
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14 The WCBOE recognizes that discussions about various religions may naturally arise while studying
15 different cultures and the impact of religious beliefs on the landscape of world history. However,
16 “teaching about” religion in a public school setting is not “instruction in” religion. Teaching about
17 religion in a Tennessee public school setting includes the study of various religions consistent with
18 standards established by the Tennessee Department of Education. Instruction in religion, by
19 contrast, is to seek acceptance of and commitment to a particular religion or set of religious beliefs,
20 or to seek rejection of any particular religion or set of religious beliefs.
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23 This policy shall be included in the annual teacher training for those content areas where State
24 Standards require the inclusion of religion as part of the curriculum.
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38 Legal References:

39 Lynch v. Donnelly, 465 U.S. 688 (1984)
40 Johnson v. Shiverman, 658 S.W. 2d 910 (Mo.App. 1983)
41 Public Acts of 2016, Chapter No. 660

Cross References:

4.200 Curriculum Development
4.201 Basic Program
4.607 Homework
4.802 Student Equal Access
4.803 Student Religious Liberties
4.805 Moment of Silence
5.600 Academic Freedom
5.601 Employee Religious Liberties