

Dickson County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in December	Descriptor Term: <h3 style="text-align: center;">Religious Content of Courses</h3>	Descriptor Code: <h3 style="text-align: center;">4.804</h3>	Issued Date: <h3 style="text-align: center;">07/28/16</h3>
		Rescinds: <h3 style="text-align: center;">4.9020</h3>	Issued: <h3 style="text-align: center;">11/20/97</h3>

1 It is essential that the teaching *about* religion and not *of* a religion be conducted in a factual, objective,
 2 and respectful manner in accordance with the following guidelines:

- 3 1. Music, art, literature or drama with a religious theme or basis is permitted as part of the
 4 curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning
 5 experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
- 6 2. The inclusion of religion shall be for educational purposes only;¹
- 7 3. The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature and history should be only as extensive
 8 as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of the curriculum. Such studies shall never
 9 be used to proselytize, establish, foster, or demean any particular religion, religious tenets, or
 10 beliefs; and¹
- 11 4. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-
 12 beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express
 13 religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech and debate.

Legal References

1. Public Acts of 2016, Chapter No. 660

Cross References

Basic Curriculum Program 4.20
 Staff Rights & Responsibilities 5.600