

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION		
RELIGION IN THE CURRICULUM		4804
ADOPTED: July 28, 2017	REVISED:	MONITORING: Review: Annually

The State Board recognizes the significant role that religious events, beliefs, and figures have played in world history, including the founding of the United States and the state of Tennessee. The State Board is committed to providing appropriate, accurate, and comprehensive instruction in the social studies and affirms that educational content consisting of religious themes shall be presented in a factual, objective, and respectful manner. Each authorized charter school shall approach religion in the curriculum with the understanding that:

- (1) Religious themes shall be permitted in the curriculum provided they are essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study;
- (2) These fields of study may include history, music, art, literature, or drama;
- (3) Inclusion of religion in academic standards, curriculum, instructional materials, teaching materials, textbooks, and teaching aids shall be for educational purposes only¹;
- (4) An emphasis on religious themes shall be only as extensive as necessary for a comprehensive study of the curriculum;
- (5) Teachers and school personnel are prohibited from using religion to proselytize, promote, or show bias toward one particular religion or attempt to indoctrinate or establish any religion or religious belief over another; and
- (6) Teachers and school personnel are prohibited from using studies of religion to demean any religion or religious beliefs.

Legal References:

¹T.C.A. § 49-6-1005