

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: <h2 style="text-align: center;">Controversial Issues/Inclusion of Religion in Curriculum</h2>	Descriptor Code: 4.800	Issued Date: 07/11/16
		Rescinds: IKB	Issued:

The discussion of issues in the classroom which are politically, philosophically or socially controversial shall be relevant to the subject matter being taught, related to educational objectives, appropriate for the age and maturity of students, and shall not materially or substantially disrupt or threaten to disrupt the discipline of the school.

To ensure that controversial issues are presented and discussed fairly and objectively and with instruction as their goal, the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. ALL personnel will seek to create an atmosphere in which differences of opinion can be voiced without fear and hostility and with mutual respect for all viewpoints;
2. Teachers will encourage students to withhold judgment and to avoid making of conclusions until all relevant and significant facts have been assembled, critically examined, and checked for accuracy;
3. Teachers will seek to develop in students a sense of responsibility for their beliefs, opinions, attitudes and actions;
4. Teachers shall place major emphasis upon "why" and "how" to think rather than "what" to think; and
5. If the subject matter being taught involves conflicting opinions, theories, or schools of thought, the teacher will ensure that differing sides of an issue are explored in order to help students develop their own critical faculties.¹

CURRICULUM

Curriculum content which consists of or addresses religious themes shall be for education purposes only and shall not be used to proselytize, establish, foster, or demean any particular religion, religious tenets, or religious beliefs.² Educational content with religious themes shall be taught factually and objectively

The social studies syllabi for all grades six (6) through twelve (12) shall be available to the public.²

 Legal References:

1. TCA 49-6-1030
2. TCA 49-6-10 (Public Chapter 660)

 Cross Reference:

Staff Rights and Responsibilities 5.600