

Marion County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Religion in the Curriculum	Descriptor Code: 4.804	Issued Date: 04/24/01
		Rescinds: 4.804	Issued: 12/15/97

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

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

Cross References:

Basic Curriculum Program 4.201
Staff Rights & Responsibilities 5.600