

Lakeland Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Religion in the Curriculum Religious Content of Courses	Descriptor Code: 4.804	Issued Date: 04/14/14
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 Educational content which consists of religious themes shall be presented in a factual, objective, and
 2 respectful manner in accordance with the following guidelines:

3 1. Religious themes may be a part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs
 4 provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented
 5 objectively;

6 **2. The inclusion of religion shall be for educational purposes only;**¹

7 3. The emphasis on religious themes should be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and
 8 comprehensive study of the curriculum. Such studies shall ~~never~~ **not be used to proselytize or**
 9 **establish** ~~foster~~ any particular **religion** or ~~religious tenets or demean any~~ religious beliefs; and¹

10 4. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-
 11 beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to
 12 express 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