

# Shelby County Board of Education

5022

Issued Date: 10/25/16

Revised: 00/00/00

## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION: INCLUSION OF RELIGION**

### **I. PURPOSE**

To establish guidelines for the appropriate inclusion of religion in Shelby County Schools curriculum and instruction materials.

### **II. SCOPE**

This policy applies to all schools and all students and employees within the Shelby County Schools.

### **III. POLICY STATEMENT**

Shelby County School agrees with the sentiments of the Tennessee Legislature regarding 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. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of state law, Shelby County Schools shall include religion in the curriculum and in instructional materials in a manner that does not indoctrinate, promote, or show bias to a religion.

The inclusion of religion in textbooks, instructional materials, curriculum, or academic standards shall be for educational purposes only and shall not be used to proselytize or establish any religion or religious belief.

Additionally, in accordance with the law, the District shall make publicly available a syllabus for all grade six (6) through twelve (12) social studies, science, math, and English language arts courses. The syllabus shall at a minimum include:

(1) A course calendar that includes standards, objectives, and topics covered;

(2) Major assignments required and field trips; and

(3) Procedures for parental access to instructional materials in accordance with § 49-6-7003.

#### **IV. RESPONSIBILITY**

A. The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring that this policy is followed.

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**Legal References:**

1. TCA, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 10
2. TCA 49-6-7003

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**Cross References:**