

Kingsport City Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in December	Descriptor Term: Instructional Standards	Descriptor Code: 4.101	Issued Date:
		Rescinds:	Issued:

General

The Board is charged with selection of the curriculum. No subjects or topics prohibited by state or federal law shall be taught.¹ The Superintendent of Schools shall develop administrative procedures to implement this policy.

STATE STANDARDS²

Only Tennessee state standards shall be taught within the school district. The following are prohibited:

1. Instructional materials, textbooks, or supplemental materials created to align exclusively with Common Core; or
2. Instructional materials, textbooks, or supplemental materials that are marketed or otherwise identified as Common Core textbooks or instructional materials.

Any complaints regarding the above shall be submitted per board policy 4.402.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING

All curriculum and instructional programming implemented in the school district shall adhere to state and federal laws. District employees shall not include or promote any concepts that would violate state law when providing instruction, using instructional or supplemental materials, or when implementing the instructional program and curriculum¹ and shall not create, facilitate or engage in classroom instruction about sexual orientation or gender identity without giving 30 day notice prior to commencing instruction, regardless of whether the curriculum is offered as part of a family life program, sex education program, or other program.

- A. The Superintendent or their designee shall notify the parent or guardian of each student whom they anticipate will be present for instruction in the curriculum that:
 - 1) Is providing a sexual orientation curriculum or gender identity curriculum; and
 - 2) The parent or guardian may examine the instructional materials and confer with the student's instructor, school counselor, or principal, as designated by the Superintendent, regarding any or all portions of the curriculum.
- B. A parent or guardian who wishes for their student to participate in any or all portions of a sexual orientation curriculum or gender identity curriculum must submit a request in writing to the student's principal affirming their participation. Students who do not participate from any or

all portions of a sexual orientation curriculum or gender identity curriculum shall not be penalized for grading purposes.

C. Thirty day notice is not required of a student's parent or guardian prior to a teacher, principal, or other school personnel:

- 1) Responding to a question from a student during class regarding sexual orientation or gender identity as it relates to any topic of instruction; or
- 2) Referring to the sexual orientation or gender identity of any historic person, group, or public figure, where the referral provides necessary context in relation to a topic of instruction.

D. There shall be no requirement to provide a sexual orientation curriculum or gender identity curriculum.

E. As used in this section "instruction of a sexual orientation curriculum or gender identity curriculum" includes distributing materials, administering tests, surveys, or questionnaires, or instruction of any kind related to sexual orientation or gender identity.

As per TCA 49-6-1301:

- "Gender identity" has the same meaning as provided in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5).
- "Parent" means the parent, guardian, person who has custody of the child, or individual who has caregiving authority.
- "Sexual orientation" means an individual's actual or perceived sexual orientation as heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop procedures to ensure that the district's instructional program complies with state law.

Complaints regarding teaching prohibited concepts in violation of state law shall be submitted per the regulation developed by the Tennessee Department of Education.³

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-2202; TCA 49-6-1304; TCA 49-6-2206; TCA 49-6-1019
2. TCA 49-1-302(a)(8); TCA 49-1-314; Public Acts of 2022, Chapter No. 1085
3. TRR/MS 0520-12-04

Cross References

Reconsideration of Textbooks and Instructional Materials 4.402
Controversial Issues 4.800
Controversial Materials 4.801