

Excerpts from *History–Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, 2005 Edition*

Criteria for Evaluating Instructional Materials: Kindergarten Through Grade Eight

Category 1, Criterion #10 (p. 182):

Materials on religious subject matter remain neutral; do not advocate one religion over another; ... do not include derogatory language... about a religion or use examples from sacred texts... that are derogatory, accusatory, or instill prejudice against other religions...

Category 1, Criterion #17 (p. 183):

All materials must be in accordance with the guidance provided in the updated History–Social Science Framework, Appendix C, “Religion and the Teaching of History–Social Science,” and Education Code sections 51500 [and] 51501...

Appendix C: Religion and the Teaching of History–Social Science

Understanding the role of religion in public schools also requires the discernment between the teaching of religion...and teaching *about* religion....[,] between instruction about religion and religious indoctrination. (p. 207)

The School may educate about all religions, but may not promote or denigrate any religion. (p. 210)

Public Schools Belong to All Citizens (p. 208)

Public schools must model the democratic process...in the development of policies and curricula. Policy decisions by officials or governing bodies should be made only after appropriate involvement of those affected by the decision and with due consideration for the rights of those holding dissenting views.

California Constitution (p. 211)

Article 9, Section 8: ...nor shall any sectarian or denominational doctrine be taught, or instruction thereon be permitted, directly or indirectly, in any of the common schools of this State.

Education Code (p. 211)

51500. No teacher shall give instruction...which reflects adversely upon persons because of their...creed...

51501. No textbook, or other instructional materials shall be adopted by the state board or by any governing board for use in the public schools which contains any matter reflecting adversely upon persons because of their...creed...