

INSTRUCTION

CURRICULUM - TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Students may benefit from the study and discussion of controversial issues. The Board supports the presentation of controversial issues in the classroom when the study contributes to the educational goals and objectives of the District.

The Board recognizes the classroom teacher as both moderator and discussion leader whenever a controversial topic becomes part of the curriculum. The teacher will direct the study and discussion in such a manner that will allow the students to have a free exchange of ideas, to present facts objectively, and to evaluate issues.

To ensure that controversial issues are dealt with fairly, the Board shall require that the following criteria be observed:

1. The controversial topic area shall be of significant interest and appropriate for the grade level of the students.
2. The controversial topic area shall be suitable for the maturity and skills of the students involved.
3. The controversial topic area shall be within the scope of the course's curriculum.
4. Students shall have access to supplementary resources that are relevant and significant to the issues.
5. Teachers shall direct the study without interjecting personal biases.
6. Any issues of a controversial nature must be reviewed with the building principal before the presentation.
7. When possible, efforts will be made to notify parents of controversial issues and parents will be given the opportunity to exclude their child(ren) from such discussions.

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