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INSTRUCTION

Controversial Issues-Guest Speakers

The district shall offer courses of study that will afford learning experiences appropriate to the level of student understanding. The instructional program shall respect the right of students to face issues, to have free access to information, to study under teachers in situations free from prejudice; and to form, hold, and express their own opinions in an atmosphere free of prejudice or discrimination. The district encourages staff members to provide for the free and orderly flow and examination of ideas so that students may gain the skills to gather and arrange facts, discriminate between facts and opinion, discuss differing viewpoints, analyze problems and draw their own tentative conclusions.

Teachers will plan discussions, including the use of guest speakers to gain divergent points of view, with thoroughness and objectivity to acquaint students with the need to recognize differing viewpoints, the importance of facts, the value of judgment, and the virtue of respect for conflicting opinions. Teachers will exercise professional judgment in determining the appropriateness of the issue to the curriculum and the maturity of the students. When in doubt regarding appropriateness, the matter should be referred to the principal.

The superintendent will establish procedures for the proper treatment of controversial issues and the approval of the use of a guest speaker. When an invited speaker expresses opinions which are partisan or considered controversial by a large portion of the community, the school will provide for the presentation of opposing views.

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Adopted: September 25, 1985  
Revised: May 23, 2001  
Revised: March 9, 2022