

Northshore School District

BOARD POLICY

No. 2331

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 without personal prejudice or discrimination.

The teaching of controversial issues carries with it the responsibility to help students explore all sides and aspects of an issue when such exploration is educationally appropriate and suitable Curriculum Materials Adoption Committee (CMAC) approved print, electronic, and/or media materials are available. Teachers will guide discussions and procedures with thoroughness and objectivity to acquaint students with the need to recognize opposing viewpoints, the importance of fact, the value of judgment and the virtue of respect for conflicting opinions.

Teachers may use guest speakers to gain divergent points of view. 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. If a presentation involves a controversial issue, the teacher shall notify students, parents, and the principal in advance. Any student objecting and who does not wish to attend the presentation shall receive an equivalent, alternative assignment.

The teacher is reminded to review related policies and procedures such as Policy 2020 (Approval and Adoption Process of Instructional Materials).

Cross Reference:

WSSDA Policy No. 2331 Controversial Issues/Guest Speakers

Adopted by the Board: 6/8/93

Revised: 7/9/02; 6/12/07; 4/10/12