

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The teacher must be free to think and to express ideas, free to select and employ materials and methods of instruction, free from undue pressures of authority, and free to act within the teacher’s professional group. Such freedom should be used judiciously and prudently to the end that it promotes the free exercise of intelligence and pupil learning.

Academic freedom is not an absolute. It must be exercised within the law and the basic ethical responsibilities of the teaching profession. Those responsibilities include:

1. an understanding of our democratic tradition and its methods
2. a concern for the welfare, growth, maturity, and development of children
3. the method of scholarship
4. application of good taste and judgment in selecting and employing materials and methods of instruction
5. recognition that the level of maturity of the learner must be considered when presenting controversial material

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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| 51500 | Prohibited instruction or activity (re adverse reflection upon persons because of race, color, creed, national origin or ancestry) |
| 51501 | Prohibited means of instruction |
| 51510 | Prohibited study or supplemental materials |
| 51511 | Religious matters properly included in courses of study |
| 51512 | Prohibited use of electronic listening or recording device; penalties |
| 51530 | Prohibition of definition (re advocating or teaching communism with the intent to indoctrinate, etc.) |

Policy Adopted:

HS BD: 11/20/85
EL BD: 7/6/82

Policy Revised:

Joint Board: 2/25/97