

Personnel – Certified

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 must be used judiciously and prudently so that it promotes the free exercise of intelligence and student 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; and
4. Application of professional judgment in selecting and employing materials and methods of instruction.

(cf. 1312 - Public Complaints)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression) (cf. 6144 - Controversial Issues)

(cf. 6161 - Equipment, Books, Materials: Provision/Selection)

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes 53a-193 through 53a-200

Keyishian v. Board of Regents, 395 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)

Perry v. Sindermann, 408 U.S. 593 (1972)

Pickering v. Board of Education, 391 U.S. 563 (1968)

Sterzing v. Fort Bend Independent School District, 376F. Supp. 657 (S.D. Tex 1972)

Grayned v. City of Rockford, 408 U.S. 104 (1972)

Miller v. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973) Amendment to U.S. Constitution, Article I

Connecticut Constitution, ARTICLE FIRST, Declaration of Rights, Sections 4, 5

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/8/81)