

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: CURRENT EVENTS

ADOPTED: February 18, 2004

REVISED:

119. CURRENT EVENTS	
1. Purpose	The Board believes that consideration of current events has a legitimate place in the educational program of the schools. Properly introduced and conducted, discussion of such events can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop skills for formulating and evaluating positions.
2. Definition	For purposes of this policy, a current event is a topic on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion and is likely to arouse both support and opposition in the community.
3. Authority	<p>The Board shall permit the introduction and proper educational use of current events, provided that their use in the instructional program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is related to the course's instructional goals and the students' level of maturity.2. Does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view.3. Encourages balanced presentations and open mindedness.4. Is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry.5. Is not related to the employment status of the teacher and/or other employees of the district. <p>When current events have not been specified in the course guide, the Board shall permit instructional use of only those issues that have been approved by the principal.</p>

<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>The Board recognizes that some deviation from the assigned course guide is necessary in the free exchange of the classroom. However, the Board specifies for the guidance of the Superintendent and staff that any discussion of current events in the classroom shall be conducted in an unprejudiced and dispassionate manner and shall not disrupt the educational process, fail to match the maturity level of students, or be unrelated to the goals of the district and the appropriate course guide.</p> <p>In the discussion of any event, a teacher may express a personal opinion but shall identify it as such and must not express an opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall assist teaching staff members to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop an alertness to the occurrence of current events in the context of the curriculum.2. Develop techniques for the management of current events that do not stifle a spirit of free and scholarly inquiry.3. Obtain prior written approval for material likely to be considered controversial.
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