

**POLICY** ————— **PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS**  
3310 / PAGE 1 OF 1  
Academic Freedom/Grading

3310 - ACADEMIC FREEDOM/GRADING

The Pequannock Township Board of Education recognizes that the professional staff's responsibility is to educate people in the democratic tradition, to foster recognition of individual freedom and social responsibility, to inspire meaningful awareness of and respect for the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and to instill appreciation of each individual's values. These democratic values can best be transmitted in an atmosphere free from censorship and artificial restraints on free inquiry and learning, and in which academic freedom for teachers and students is encouraged.

Academic freedom within the confines of State law and Board policy will be guaranteed to teachers in order to create in the classroom an atmosphere of freedom. This atmosphere permits students to raise questions dealing with critical issues of the time. An atmosphere of freedom produces an environment conducive to the study, investigation, presentation, and interpretation of facts. The teacher is responsible for exercising good judgment in selecting issues for discussion of value to the students involved.

Teachers are employed to instruct in a manner that efficiently assists students to realize goals and objectives constituting the district's curriculum.

The doctrine of academic freedom does not, however, grant a teacher the right to create or modify curricular programs according to his/her beliefs.

The exercise of a teacher's academic freedom in the classroom shall be limited to the specific and express terms of the Constitution and laws of the State of New Jersey and the United States of America. In addition, while teachers have the right to determine the grades that students earn in their classes, it is the policy of the Pequannock Township Board of Education that no grade may be lowered as a *direct* result of a student's behavior, including non-participation in extra curricular activities, i.e. Athletic or Music Programs.

Revised and Adopted: 10 September 2007