

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

The Board believes that academic freedom is essential to the fulfillment of the purposes of the district and they acknowledge the fundamental need to protect teachers from censorship or restraint which might interfere with the performance of their teaching functions. Accordingly, it requires that:

- A. Teachers shall be responsible for providing students opportunities to investigate all sides of any topics and materials introduced or presented and shall be especially responsible for providing such opportunities regarding controversial subjects. Such material must be relevant to the course of study, as defined in the course objectives, and be appropriate to the maturity level and intellectual ability of the students. The teacher shall permit the expression of the opinions of others and encourage students to examine, analyze, and evaluate all available information about such topics and materials so that each may form his/her own opinions. Teachers at all times shall strive to promote tolerance of the opinions of others and of the right of individuals to form and hold differing opinions.
- B. The teacher, by virtue of his position, does not have privileged status for statements which are libelous or slanderous or which in any way violate the civil rights of others.
- C. A teacher shall deal with subject matter making current news relevant in the same manner as course material noted above.
- D. A teacher shall not use his/her position to further personal political aims.

ADOPTED: 11/18/74; 1/12/76; 7/19/82