



School Administrative Unit 70

41 Lebanon Street,
Suite 2 Hanover, New
Hampshire 03755-
2147

Hanover High School
Frances C. Richmond Middle School
Bernice A. Ray School
Marion W. Cross School

HB 1255

1 Teachers' Loyalty; Prohibition Added. Amend RSA 191:1 to read as follows:

191:1 Advocacy of Subversive Doctrines Prohibited.

*I. No teacher shall advocate communism, **socialism, or Marxism** as a political doctrine or any other doctrine **or theory** which includes the overthrow by force of the government of the United States or of this state in any public or state-approved school or in any state institution.*

*II. **No teacher shall advocate any doctrine or theory promoting a negative account or representation of the founding and history of the United States of America in New Hampshire public schools which does not include the worldwide context of now outdated and discouraged practices. Such prohibition includes but is not limited to teaching that the United States was founded on racism.***

*III. **A violation of this section shall be considered a violation of the New Hampshire code of ethics and code of conduct for educational professionals and shall justify disciplinary sanctions.***

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Given our concerns that HB 1255:

- promotes an unconstitutional restriction on free speech that is harmful to all residents of New Hampshire;
- severely impinges upon the concept of local control by interfering with the governing and management of public schools by communities through their locally-elected school boards;
- has language that attempts to intimidate and possibly punish teachers for leading classrooms focused on rigorous research (maybe instead of inquiry?) and critical thinking about American history;
- places an undue burden on our teachers, staff and administrators to meet conflicting requirements in two states as our schools are members of a multi-state school district;

the members of the SAU 70, Dresden, Hanover, and Norwich School Boards:

- 1. affirm our commitment to academic excellence
- 2. support the professionalism of our teaching staff
- 3. affirm our belief that the freedom to engage in conversation from multiple perspectives about all periods in American history, both in social studies courses and in other classes when appropriate, is central to the work of education
- 4. respectfully request that the New Hampshire Legislature vote no on HB1255; and
- 5. respectfully request that Governor Sununu veto HB1255 should it pass in the New Hampshire Legislature.

*Jon Hunt
Marcela Di Blasi
Lily Trajman*

*Rick Johnson
Kim Hartmann
Deb B. Nelson*

*Lisa Christie
Ben Keeney
Garrett Palm*

*Neil Odell
Tom Candon*