

Controversial Issues

Public schools have the responsibility to educate students to be informed, conscientious citizens, capable of self-direction and critical thinking. In teaching young people to become effective citizens in our democracy, students must be given the opportunity to develop the ability to gain information about public issues, to evaluate facts, and to express themselves through discussion, writing, and the ballot.

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) expects administrators, teachers, and staff to exercise professional judgment when deciding whether or not a particular issue is suitable for study or discussion. They shall consult with the Superintendent or designee as necessary to determine the appropriateness of the subject matter, guest speakers, and/or related instructional materials or resources.

The Board directs the Superintendent to promulgate administrative regulations in furtherance of this policy.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes 31-51q
 Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 09/09/1981)
 Keyishian v. Board of Regents 395 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)
 Garcetti v. Ceballos 547 U.S. 410 (2006)
 Johnson v. Poway Unified School District 658 F.3d 954 (9th Cir.) (2011)
 Mayer v. Monroe County Community School Corporation 474 F.3d 477 (7th Cir.) (2007)

Policy adopted: September 9, 1991
Policy revised: June 10, 2015
Policy revised: March 13, 2019
Policy revised: May 11, 2022

Source: CABE