

3310 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The teacher must be free to think and to express ideas, free from undue pressures of authority and free to act within his/her professional group. Such freedom should be used judiciously and prudently to the end that it promotes the free exercise of intelligence and pupil learning.

Academic freedom is not absolute. It must be exercised within the basic ethical responsibilities of the teaching profession. These responsibilities include:

- A. A commitment to democratic tradition and its methods;
- B. A concern for the welfare, growth and development of children;
- C. The method of scholarship;
- D. Application of good taste and judgment in selecting and employing materials and methods of instruction;
- E. Awareness of the needs and sensitivity of the community;
- F. Recognition of the viewpoints of others.

Freedom of Speech

The Watchung Borough Board of Education acknowledges the right of its employees, as citizens in a democratic society, to speak out on issues of public concern. The Superintendent shall prepare guidelines by which teachers, as public employees, may be helped to gauge the limits of protection they enjoy under the Constitution, when making public utterances.

Adopted: 19 October 2016

