

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES/GUEST SPEAKERS: 2331

The District shall offer courses of study which provide learning experiences appropriate to the level of student understanding. The instructional program shall respect the rights of students to face issues, to have free access to information, and to study under teachers in situations free from prejudice, or discrimination.

It is the teacher's responsibility to present controversial issues that are free from prejudice and encourage students to form, hold and express their own opinions without personal prejudice or discrimination.

When a teacher is in doubt as to whether or not a topic or speaker is controversial, he/she should refer the matter to the school principal.

When controversial topics are presented, or controversial speakers are used, in the classroom, students can choose not to participate. Alternative learning opportunities shall be provided.

When handling controversial issues, the teacher may not present his/her own personal position as the only acceptable position which may be taken on that particular issue, and he/she should use caution regarding the insertion of his/her views regarding controversial issues in any manner that might be construed as encouraging a particular political or religious viewpoint, or that might cause those with opposing viewpoints to feel invalidated or intimidated. The teacher shall not seek to bring about a single conclusion to which all students must subscribe, but rather encourage a problem solving environment. The teacher shall not suppress a student's view on that issue as long as the expression of that view is not derogatory, malicious, or abusive toward the other students' views, nor shall one student be permitted to dominate the discussion.