

Book
Policy Manual
Section
100 Programs
Title
Current Events
Code
119
Status
Active
Adopted
October 11, 2007

Purpose

The Board believes that consideration of current events has a legitimate place in the educational program of the schools. Properly introduced and conducted, discussion of such events can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop skills for formulating and evaluating positions.

Definition

For purposes of this policy, a **current event** is a topic on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion and is not expressly enumerated in the course guide as appropriate for the course of study.

“Excessive or gratuitous profanity” – the pervasive use of profane, vulgar or other language that offends good taste or propriety contained within materials, such that the materials taken as a whole does not offer serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value for the intended student audience.

“Excessive or gratuitous sexuality” – the description or depiction of human genitals in a sexual manner or the fondling or touching of the human genitals, buttocks or breasts in a sexual manner contained within materials, such that the material when taken as whole appeals to prurient interests in sex and does not offer serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value for the intended student audience.

“Excessive or gratuitous graphic violence” – the pervasive description or depiction of violence in a vivid, brutal or realistic manner contained with material, such that the

material, when taken as whole, does not offer serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value for the intended student audience.

Authority

The Board shall permit the introduction and proper educational use of current events, provided that their use in the instructional program:

1. Is related to the course's instructional goals and the students' level of maturity.
2. Are selections, that are age appropriate and will not contain, excessive or gratuitous profanity, excessive or gratuitous sexuality, and excessive or gratuitous graphic violence, such that the material taken as a whole does not offer serious literary, artistic, political, historical or scientific value for the intended student audience.
3. Does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view.
4. Encourages balanced presentations and open mindedness.
5. Is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry.

Delegation of Responsibility

In the discussion of any event, a teacher may express a personal opinion but shall identify it as such and must not express an opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view.

The Superintendent or designee shall assist teaching staff members to:

1. Develop an alertness to the occurrence of current events in the context of the curriculum.
2. Develop techniques for the management of current events that do not stifle a spirit of free and scholarly inquiry.

Last Modified by Rich Eby November 7, 2023