

Descriptor Term: CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKERS

Descriptor Code: IKBA

Rescinds: IKBA

Board Approved: 8/28/2006

Previously Approved: 2/1/1988

The Board of Trustees recognizes that visiting speakers may be of specific persuasions and that their topics may be controversial. If they are prohibited from speaking because of their points of view, academic freedom is endangered. Students need to study issues upon which there is disagreement and to practice analyzing problems, gathering and organizing facts, discriminating between facts and opinions, discussing differing viewpoints and drawing tentative conclusions.

When correctly handled, the use of controversial speakers becomes an invaluable component in accomplishing the goals of citizenship education. However, this places a serious responsibility on the professional staff members to correctly structure the learning situation involving a speaker.

All speakers must be invited through the school principal, who shall endeavor to engage speakers for both sides of the issues. In no instance will a speaker who advocates unconstitutional or illegal acts or procedures be permitted to address students.

Legal Reference: U. S. Constitution, Amendment I, Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, 393 U.S. 503 (1969)