

Adopted: February 18, 1997

District 77 Policy 626

*Revised: September 19, 2005
April 4, 2016*

Last Reviewed: June 18, 2025

626 CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to create guidelines for the discussion of controversial topics in the classroom.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the school board to encourage teaching about controversial topics.

III. GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION

The guidelines for teaching about controversial topics are as follows:

- 1) The topics must be appropriate for the concept and/or unit being taught in the subject area.
- 2) The topic must be one in which the teacher is knowledgeable.
- 3) All sides of an issue must be discussed in a balanced presentation. The school district's position must be neutral.
- 4) Approval for speakers must be secured from the building principal prior to the presentation.
- 5) Upon the request of a student or parent/guardian, the student will be excused from class during a controversial topic. Alternative instruction may be provided as outlined in Policy 629, Alternative Instruction.

Legal References: None

Cross References: District 77 Policy 601 (Goals and Objectives of the Education Program)
District 77 Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)
District 77 Policy 629 (Alternative Instruction)
District 77 Policy 630 (Reconsideration of Textbooks or Other Instructional Materials)