

<u>Section G:</u> Human Resources	Knox County Board of Education Policy		
	Descriptor Term: Academic Freedoms	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
		G-200	7/95
		Reviewed:	Revised:
	5/25	6/17	

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The Board of Education believes the instructional programs of the Knox County Schools should foster recognition of individual freedom and social responsibility, inspire meaningful awareness of and respect for the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Tennessee and instill appreciation of the values of individual personality. These democratic values can best be taught in an atmosphere which is based upon freedom of thought, inquiry and study.

It is necessary to teachers and students to explore controversial issues while training for effective citizenship. Teachers and students have the right to accomplish this exploration without fear of unfair or inconsiderate criticism. Approval of instructional materials and curriculum shall be subject to the requirements set forth in the Board Policies governing Instructional Goals and Objectives.

Academic freedom within the confines of state law, board policy and the state approved local curriculum is guaranteed to teachers in order to create an atmosphere of freedom in the classroom. This permits students to raise questions dealing with critical issues of the time and produces an environment conducive to the study, investigation, presentation, and interpretation of facts.

Both teachers and students should respect minority opinions and recognize that reasonable compromise is often an important part of decision-making in our society. Competent instruction provides an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice while considering controversial issues. Students are allowed to form and express their own positions opinions and be guided to do so in ways that foster respect, understanding, and the development of responsible citizenship.

The teacher is responsible for exercising good judgment in selecting language and subject matter that is age appropriate with students.

Cross References:

1. Knox County Board of Education Policies I-210, I-211, I-420, I-421.

Approved as to Legal Form
By Knox County Law Director 4/20/2017
/Gary T. Dupler/Deputy Law Director