EASTCONN
Where Learning Comes to Life

INSTRUCTION
Series 6000
Policy #6017.12.1

Controversial Issues

Controversial issues are those subjects about which there are significant differences of opinion based on differing values people bring to an issue; as a basic educational competency, students should develop abilities to deal with controversial issues.

Controversy is inherent in the democratic way of life, and study and discussion of controversial issues is essential to citizenship education in a free society. Students can become better informed individuals through examining evidence, facts, and differing viewpoints; by exercising freedom of thought and moral choice; and through making responsible decisions. Perpetuation of the fundamental principles of American society requires opportunities for students to read, to gather information, to speak, to hear alternative viewpoints, and to reach honest judgments according to individual abilities.

Teachers shall help students identify and evaluate relevant information, learn the techniques of critical analysis, and make independent judgments. They must reinforce students rights to present and support personal conclusions with those who have opposing points of view. Teachers should also develop student interest in objective re-examination of long-standing issues, and of newly significant issues, and promote vigorous exchanges of ideas. Although teachers have the right to express personal viewpoints and opinions, they do not have the right to indoctrinate students with their personal views.

(cf. 5040.1.1 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6017.22.1 - Instruction Equipment and Books and Materials)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

31-51q Liability of employer for discipline or discharge of employee on account of employee's exercise of certain constitutional rights.

Keyishian v. Board of Regents 395 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Directors , 9/9/81)

Adopted: 2/23/21
Revised:
Replaces: 6144