

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Public education must strive to present, as objectively as possible, varied events, activities and perceptions reflected in history, literature and other sources of humanity's thought and expression. A major goal of education in a global society is to develop persons who can think critically, understand cultures, live compassionately with others, make sound decisions and live with the consequences of their judgments. Because points of view differ and biases exist, students must have access to materials which express this diversity of perspective.

It is the responsibility of the instructor to make certain that such access to materials presenting various sides of an issue is available. Instructors must take into account the relative maturity of their students and the need for guidance and help in studying issues and arriving at balanced views.

The right of instructors to teach certain subjects or to employ certain teaching methods may be restricted by the Board where such subjects or methods are deemed by the Board and/or District administrators to be educationally unsound, inappropriate for the age or majority level of the students, or irrelevant to any valid educational objective. All instruction must conform to state academic content standards and/or the District's adopted courses of study. The right to free speech protected by the First Amendment does not extend to the in-class curricular speech of instructors made pursuant to their official duties. Accordingly, the instructors' speech in the classroom may be subject to reasonable controls as to appropriateness.

[Adoption date: August 14, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: November 28, 2011]

[Re-adoption date: May 11, 2015]

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination
EDE, Computer/On-Line Services
INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities

CONTRACT REF.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement