

INSTRUCTION

Series 300

Policy Title . . . TEACHING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES Code No. 381

A “controversial issue” is defined as an area of significant academic inquiry about which substantial segments of the citizens of this community, state or nation hold sincere conflicting points of view.

It is the belief of this School Board that controversial issues be fairly presented in a spirit of honest academic freedom to the end that individual students may recognize the validity of other points of view but can learn to formulate their own opinions based on dispassionate, objective, unbiased study and discussion of the factual basis underlying the controversy.

It shall be the responsibility of the instructor to present fully and fairly the opportunity and means for students to study, consider and discuss all sides of controversial issues, including but not limited to political philosophies.

It shall be the responsibility of the instructor to protect the right of the student to study pertinent controversial issues appropriate to the student’s developmental level, allowing the expression of their personal opinions without jeopardizing their relationship with their instructors or school.

It shall be the responsibility of the instructor to refrain from advocating partisan causes, sectarian religious views or selfish propaganda of any kind through any classroom or school device.

It shall be the policy of this school system with respect to controversial issues to encourage instructors to lead full discussions thereof in a spirit of academic freedom to the end that the student may learn that he has the right to disagree with the opinion of another, but he has the responsibility to base his disagreement upon fact and at the same time respect the right of another to hold a conflicting opinion.

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Section 120.12