

INSTRUCTION

Controversial Issues

Teachers will plan discussions and procedures, including the use of guest speakers to gain divergent points of view, with thoroughness and objectivity to acquaint students with the need to recognize opposing viewpoints, the importance of facts, the value of judgment and the virtue of respect for conflicting opinions. Teachers will exercise professional judgment in determining the appropriateness of the issue to the curriculum and the maturity of the students.

Teachers shall confer with the principal or designee and immediate supervisor before scheduling programs or speakers, which would generally be considered to be a controversial nature. When controversial speakers or programs are presented, reasonable opportunity will be given to proponents of opposing points of view to express their side of the question.

When an invited speaker expresses opinions which are partisan or considered controversial by a large portion of the community, the school will provide the presentation of opposing views.

- A. If the teacher and the principal believe the guest speaker's topic is controversial, they will develop a plan whereby the issue(s) can be presented in an objective, unbiased manner; and
- B. In the event the speaker's topic is determined to be controversial, the teacher will notify students beforehand that any student who does not wish to attend the presentation may have an alternative assignment.

Cross Reference: [Board Policy 2331](#) Controversial Issues

Adopted: September 1981
Updated: March 2001
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