

Instruction

Controversial Issues – Guest Speakers

The district will offer courses that will afford learning experiences appropriate to the level of student understanding. The instructional program will respect the right of students to face issues, to have free access to information, to study under teachers in situations free from prejudice and to form, hold, and express their own opinions without personal prejudice or discrimination. Staff members should provide for the free and orderly flow and examination of ideas so that students may gain the skills to gather and arrange facts, discriminate between facts and opinion, recognize and discuss differing viewpoints, apply sound judgement, and draw their own tentative conclusions.

Teachers will plan discussions and procedures, including the use of guest speakers with thoroughness and objectivity, to acquaint students with divergent viewpoints, based on the appropriateness of the issues to the curriculum and the maturity of the students. When in doubt regarding appropriateness, the matter should be referred to the principal.

The Superintendent or designee will establish procedures for the approval of the use of a guest speaker. 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 believes 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.

Classification: Discretionary

Adoption Date: January 22, 1992

Revised Date: September 9, 2020