

POLICY 6810
TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Controversial issues shall not be avoided, and teachers and students shall be free to explore such issues and problems on the basis of principle, not prejudice, as part of the adopted curriculum.

RULE 6810

GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

1. The teacher shall consult with the building principal where a question of prejudice, objectivity or partiality, or controversial teaching issues may arise.
2. Approval requests for the teaching of controversial issues, including instructional materials or names of speakers being considered for appearances in a school should be submitted to the building principal using the Controversial Issues Request Form for proper review and consideration at least three weeks in advance. Final approval must be obtained from the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction.
3. Instructional materials or guest speakers representing issues or groups considered offensive to school and community (such as current hate group members or former members who have not disavowed allegiance) shall not be approved.
4. Guest speakers or instructional materials for a classroom or school will be selected carefully, in terms of benefits to be derived by the students. Instructional materials shall be previewed and/or speakers shall be interviewed as to the appropriateness of their message prior to the submission of the request form. Guest speakers shall confine their remarks to appropriate content or program-related subjects. Speakers who deviate from the approved content shall be asked to cease their presentation by the teacher or administrator in attendance. The Assistant Superintendent of Instruction shall be notified of any speakers not following District policy.
5. Instructors shall provide time for discussion of the topic following the presentation.
6. Media interviews with guest speakers shall be conducted in a private location so as to minimize classroom disruption.
7. Schools shall not be used to promote political or religious views. Speakers shall be prohibited from announcing religious services, political gatherings, or other privately sponsored events or to invite the students publicly to those events, while in the school building.