

Controversial Issues-Guest Speakers

The district will offer courses of study which 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. The district encourages staff members to 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, discuss differing viewpoints, analyze problems and draw their own tentative conclusions.

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. When in doubt regarding appropriateness, the matter should be referred to the principal.

The superintendent 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 for 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.

Film Policy

1. All films will be selected for educational value and in relation to the Educational Learning Requirements.
2. PG-13 and R rated films will be edited, as appropriate, for the grade level of the students. Teachers are encouraged to review films that require editing or contain questionable content, with supervisors prior to use in the classroom. The Board of Directors may view edited films prior to showing for the purpose of advisement. **Note: Sexual acts/nudity will be edited. Language/graphic violence will be edited as appropriate for grade level.**
3. All religious and personal beliefs of students regarding film content will be dealt with sensitivity.
4. A comprehensive film list will be developed at each building and made available to parents, students, and staff. Any film added to the list during the school year is subject to the criterion of Provision 2, above, before use. Films with questionable content will be discussed prior to showing to allow students to "opt-out" with parent consent. When requested, reasonable alternate assignments will be made available. **Note: Reasonable alternative assignment means "time for time," e.g., 4 hours of viewing film and/or doing discussion equals 4 hours of the alternative assignment.**

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Classification: **Discretionary**
Revised Dates: **12.17.98**