



Administrative Procedure 205

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES AND MATERIALS

Background

The District recognizes that the prescribed and authorized curricula includes issues and materials which may be viewed as controversial. It supports the concept that students are to be able to study ideas of political, economic or social significance and to formulate opinions.

With this intent, students are to have the opportunity to study under competent instruction in an atmosphere free from bias, prejudice, indoctrination or propaganda. Students are also to have access to relevant information through the school or public libraries.

Procedures

1. No teacher shall attempt to indoctrinate students with his/her personal political, sexual, racial, or social beliefs.
2. No teacher shall present any material (books, films, speakers) or programs of a controversial or questionable nature (political, sexual, racial, social) which might be offensive to any segment of the school community, without first obtaining approval from the principal.
3. The teaching of controversial issues will be productive when:
 - 3.1. The teacher keeps the principal and parents informed when they perceive that sensitive issues will be involved.
 - 3.2. The issues have relevance and therefore, interest for the student.
 - 3.3. The topic and materials used are appropriate to the age group.
 - 3.4. The topic is related to school programs.
 - 3.5. Alternative points of view are properly and fairly presented.
 - 3.6. The students have free access to appropriate materials and information for analysis and evaluation of the issues.
 - 3.7. The teacher is able to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and thoughtful consideration, where discussion of a variety of viewpoints is encouraged.

Reference: Sections 7, 8, 17, 20, 22, 65, 76, 85 School Act

Civil Rights Protection Act
Human Rights Code
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Evaluating, Selecting, and Managing Learning Resources: A Guide (2002)
Adopted: December 3, 1973
Revised: April 2, 1984; December 15, 2020