

**TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

The Board recognizes that controversial topics may arise as a result of normal classroom situations and curriculum subject matter. Controversial issues arising from classroom situations and subject matter may be discussed and explored in the classrooms throughout the school district. Topics must be subject and age appropriate and the teacher appropriately trained to facilitate such discussion.

Free inquiry in a democratic society requires that controversial issues arising in the normal classroom situation be handled as a regular aspect of instruction and learning in such a way as to not inhibit the dignity, the personality or the intellectuality of either the teacher or the student.

Language which is controversial, sensational or is generally considered offensive should not be a part of normal course instruction. However, this topic may be discussed and/or referred to when the curriculum addresses these issues but shall not, without proper educational preparation and appropriate discussion, be used, displayed or assigned as a part of any course of study.

The Superintendent shall see that necessary guidelines are established.

Proposed: 08/28/00  
Adopted: 10/02/00