

## Controversial Speakers

No overall standard can be established which will automatically separate and exclude as a resource the person whose views or manner of presenting them may actually obstruct the educational process or endanger the health and safety of students or staff. However, the Board, in an effort to uphold the students' freedom to learn while also recognizing obligations which the exercise of this freedom entails, establishes the following rules:

1. The teacher/sponsor and school building administrator shall investigate fully those proposed resource persons for whom the community may question the wisdom of his/her presence:
  - a. The principal's approval shall be secured for all such persons;
  - b. A tape recording may be made of each such resource person's presentation.
2. Teachers/Sponsors should encourage the use of resource persons representing various approaches or points of view on a given topic in order to afford the students a more comprehensive understanding of it;
3. No person who encourages or advocates breaking the law shall be invited to speak;
4. The ideas presented and the resource person invited to present them shall have a demonstrable relation to the curricular or cocurricular activity in which the participating students are involved;
5. Prior to his/her appearance or participation, the resource person shall be given in writing and shall agree to abide by the following regulations:
  - a. Profanity, vulgarity and lewd comments are prohibited;
  - b. Tobacco use is prohibited;
  - c. The teacher/sponsor responsible for inviting the resource person, or any member of the school administration, has the right and duty to interrupt or suspend any proceedings if the conduct of the resource person is judged to be in poor taste or endangering to the safety of students and staff.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 332.107](#)  
[ORS 336.067](#)

[OAR 581-022-1020](#)