



Freedom of Expression/Teachers

The Board seeks to educate young people in the democratic tradition, to foster recognition of individual freedom and social responsibility, and to inspire meaningful awareness of and respect for the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Freedom of expression, as defined by federal and state law and by Board policy, will be guaranteed to teachers to create a classroom atmosphere that allows students to raise questions dealing with critical issues.

A teacher's academic freedom is his/her right and responsibility to study, investigate, present, interpret and discuss all relevant facts and ideas in the field of his/her professional competence. As a professional, the teacher strives to maintain a spirit of free inquiry, open-mindedness and impartiality in his/her classroom. The teacher is free to present his/her own opinions, as well as, the premise from which they are derived, but must clearly indicate it is their opinion. These opinions, when stated, should appear after the students have discussed the material and issue.

The American academic tradition, which stresses the free exchange of ideas, is at the very heart of classroom teaching and curriculum development. Teachers have special rights and bear special responsibilities.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.072](#)
[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 339.880](#)

[ORS 339.885](#)

[OAR 581-021-0050](#)
[OAR 581-021-0055](#)

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-4074 (2006).
Westside Cmty. Bd. of Educ. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990).
Hazelwood Sch. District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).
U.S. CONST. amend. I; U.S. CONST. amend. XIV.
OR. CONST., art. I, § 8.