

Condon School District 25J

Code: **INB**
Adopted: 7/01/85; 4/12/94
Readopted: 11/09/05; 11/12/08; 4/13/16
Orig. Code(s): **IMB**

Studying Controversial Issues

One of the most valuable outcomes of a free educational system is the development of an ability to meet issues without prejudice and to withhold judgments while facts are being collected, assembled and analyzed.

Students should have the opportunity to find, collect and assemble factual material on the subject, interpret the data without prejudice, reconsider assumptions and claims and reach their own conclusions.

To encourage students to search after truth and think for themselves, teachers should refrain from expressing personal views before and during the period of research and study.

Criticism and the promotion of a cause within the classroom are inappropriate and unscholarly. The teacher's attitude should be one which is truth seeking, open-minded and tolerant. In handling a controversial issue the teacher shall not suppress a student's view on that issue as long as the expression of that view is not derogatory, malicious or abusive toward other students' views.

The presentation and discussion of controversial issues in the classroom should be on an informative basis. Teachers should guard against giving their personal opinions on sectarian, religious or political questions or any other controversial issues. Propaganda, when recognized, should always be distinguished from fact. Speakers dealing with special fields and printed or visual material from organizations which are thought of as "pressure groups" should be secured or used only with the written consent of the superintendent. Three basic rights of the student include:

1. The right to study controversial issues of political, economic or social significance;
2. The right to study under competent instruction in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice;
3. The right of access to all relevant information freely available in the school library.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 336.067](#)

[OAR 581-022-1020](#)

[OAR 581-022-1910](#)

U.S. CONST. amend. I.
OR. CONST., art. I.

Cross Reference(s):

IIA - Instructional Resources/Instructional Materials
IB - Freedom of Expression
INC - Controversial Speakers