

Controversial Speakers

It is important that students have the opportunity to hear resource speakers who can present issues relevant to the educational program. It is the policy of the Board that students have the right to investigate and consider various positions from which to draw intelligent conclusions.

Controversial and Political Speakers

In the event that controversial issues or topics are to be presented, steps must be taken to ensure that the presentation relates directly to the educational program and that provisions have been made for a balanced presentation that includes all sides of a given issue. (Controversial issues are those usually associated with religion, politics, ideologies and lifestyles which may arouse strong reactions representing different points of view.)

Political candidates may be allowed to speak to classes or clubs during the school day if, in the judgment of the principal, the presentation is a desirable supplement to the instructional program. Any other candidate who has filed for the same office will, upon request, be allowed equal time.

Resource speakers are required to meet the usual standards of language, appearance and decorum in schools. The superintendent, principal or teacher who sponsored the speaker has the right and obligation to interrupt or suspend the presentation if the conduct or content being presented by the speaker endangers the health and safety of the students and staff.

The superintendent will develop procedures governing the use of resource speakers.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 336.067](#)

[OAR 581-022-1020](#)

Cross Reference(s):

INB - Studying Controversial Issues