

# Gresham-Barlow SD 10

Code: **INB**  
Adopted: 5/1/95  
Readopted: 4/12/01, 5/2/02  
Orig. Code(s): INB

## Controversial Issues

Controversy is inherent in the democratic way of life. Therefore, it is natural that the study and discussion of controversial issues have an important place in the education of citizens in a free society.

Any matter is regarded as controversial when there is a significant difference of opinion among a substantial number of citizens regarding the issues related to a current problem. Such issues may surface at any grade level and they should be discussed within limitations such as age appropriateness, relationship to the classroom curriculum and the availability of materials and leadership to provide an objective examination of the matter.

In approaching controversial issues, staff should present multiple perspectives responsible for guiding students to use an analytical and objective approach; obtain the pertinent facts; and identify, clarify, analyze and compare multiple perspectives/opinions. Each student should be able to deliberate on the matter and/or draw conclusions. Teachers are responsible for distinguishing between facts and opinions in classroom discussion.

END OF POLICY

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Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 336.067](#)

[OAR 581-022-1020](#)

[OAR 581-022-1910](#)

United States Constitution, Amendment I.  
Oregon Constitution, Article 1.

Cross Reference(s):

IB - Freedom of Expression