

Controversial Issues

It is the policy of the Board to provide an orderly process for receiving and responding to complaints about or other challenge to the programs of the district. The superintendent shall assist the Board in the development and use of a process designated to implement this policy consistent with the following requirements:

1. Differences of Opinion: The Board recognizes that classroom activities are such that honest differences of opinion among students, their parents and the school may develop regarding the material discussed in classes and that similar differences may arise regarding the policies and procedures of the Board and administration. The following is designed to reduce such conflicts as may occur from time to time;
2. Teacher's Role: The teacher's role is that of an impartial guide, aiding students in the process of formulating their decisions by providing such material as is relevant and available and by maintaining an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice. Help is given the student not only to work out problems as an individual but also to be aware of the extent to which the norms and expectations of the community and society must be considered;
3. Procedure: The following procedure shall be followed in the reduction of conflict about controversial issues:
 - a. The principal and staff will make every effort to provide ample opportunity for students and members of the public to discuss district program and procedures about which there may be questions;
 - b. If the matter is not settled by the staff, the superintendent will offer an opportunity for an "informal" hearing;
 - c. If the issue remains unsettled, the Board will provide an opportunity for an appeal at an appropriate hearing at which time all the protections of due process shall be observed;
 - d. The decision of the Board will be final, except for possible appeal to appropriate courts as provided by law.

4. Instructional Exemption Request: Any parent/guardian may request that his/her student be excused from an instructional program or activity required by the school district by completing an Instructional Exemption Request form. These forms are available in each school office.

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):

GBG - Staff Participation in Political Activities

IIA - Selection of Educational Materials

IB - Freedom of Expression