

Studying Controversial Issues

The teaching of controversial issues requires the recognition of responsibilities: by the teacher to students, by the principal to the district and by the district to the community.

The teacher will adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The issue should be within the framework of the district's philosophy and the program in the subject area;
2. The issue should be within the level of the student's maturity;
3. The discussion should contribute significantly to developing the skills of critical thinking and problem solving;
4. Teaching strategies should be objective so that all sides of the issue are explored;
5. Suitable materials, including facts and concepts of all aspects of the issue, should be available;
6. The principal will be informed of all teaching of controversial issues in the school.

Based on the teacher guidelines above, the principal will adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Approve or disapprove the teaching of controversial issues which are not a part of the district curriculum;
2. Request purchase approval from the superintendent or designee for books and instructional materials required for student use which deal with controversial subjects or issues and are not listed in the district's catalog of recommended instructional materials.