

Pendleton School District 16R

Code: **INB**
Adopted: 1/10/89
Readopted: 6/14/10
Orig. Code(s): INB

Teaching about Controversial Issues

The Board's policy reaffirms the basic rights of the student:

1. The right to study controversial issues that have political, economic or social significance on which, at his/her level, he/she will begin to have an opinion;
2. The right to study under competent instruction in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice; and
3. The right of access to all relevant information freely available in the school or public libraries.

The Board supports teaching about controversial issues in the schools. The presentation and discussion of controversial issues will be on an informative basis. Teachers will present both sides of controversial issues and guard against giving their personal opinions. Students should have had an opportunity to find, collect, and assemble factual material on the subject; to interpret the data without prejudice; to reconsider assumptions and claims and to reach their own conclusion. By refraining from expressing personal views; the teacher will encourage students to meet issues without prejudice and to withhold judgement while facts are being collected, assembled, weighed, and relationships seen before drawing inferences or conclusions, is among the most valuable outcomes of a free educational system.

Emotional criticism and the promotion of a cause within the classroom are inappropriate. The teacher will be open minded and tolerant and refrain from deliberate intrusion of his/her philosophy or point of view upon the students.

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.