

# Rainier School District 13

Code: **IB**  
Adopted: 7/01/89

## Academic Freedom

The Board seeks to educate people in the democratic tradition, to foster recognition of individual freedom and social responsibility, and to inspire meaningful awareness of and respect for the Constitution and for the Bill of Rights.

Academic freedom within confines of state law, Board policy, and district requirements will be guaranteed to teachers in order to create in the classroom an atmosphere of freedom which allows students to raise questions dealing with critical issues.

The teacher is responsible for exercising judgment in selecting issues which are of educational value to the students involved. Thus, academic freedom is not an absolute. It moves along a sliding scale in which the teacher must consider, among other things, grade level, age, maturity, ability to discern and express complex thoughts and the need for guidance.

END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.072](#)  
[ORS 332.107](#)  
[ORS 336.477](#)

[ORS 339.880](#)  
[ORS 339.885](#)

[OAR 581-021-0050](#)  
[OAR 581-021-0055](#)

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-4074 (2006).  
Westside Cmty. Bd. of Educ. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990).  
Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).  
U.S. CONST. amend. I; U.S. CONST. amend. XIV.  
OR. CONST., art. I, § 8.

### Cross Reference(s):

IGDB - Student Publications  
INB - Teaching About Controversial Issues  
JFI - Student Petitions