

# Sheridan School District 48J

Code: **INC**  
Adopted: 1/17/01  
Readopted: 6/20/12  
Orig. Code(s): INC-AR

## Community Resource Persons/Controversial Speakers

One goal of education is to prepare students to participate constructively in a democratic, pluralistic society, a society in which many differing opinions are held and differing causes are espoused. It is important that students develop an understanding of divergent ideas. It is also important that they develop judgment, a capacity to discern the difference between fact and opinion and to weigh arguments, slogans and appeals. Books, films and other media are valuable for giving students exposure to many differing ideas, but for effective learning it is also useful to invite appropriate persons not on the district educational staff to speak to or to meet with groups of students as part of the educational process.

No overall standard can be established which will automatically exclude, as a resource, the person whose views or manner of presenting them may obstruct the educational process or endanger the health and safety of students or staff. The Board establishes the following guidelines, however, in an effort to uphold students' freedom to learn while also recognizing obligations which the exercise of freedom entails:

1. The teacher/club sponsor and administration is expected to exercise judgment and to investigate fully those proposed resource speakers to whom questions may arise;
2. Teachers/club sponsors should encourage the use of resource speakers representing various approaches and points of view on a given topic or issue in order to afford students a more comprehensive understanding of the topic/issue;
3. An appropriate record shall be made of each resource person/speaker used and of his/her presentation;
4. The ideas presented and the speaker invited to present them shall have a demonstrable relation to the instruction or cocurricular activity in which participating students are involved;
5. The teacher, club sponsor or member of the administration responsible for inviting the speaker has the right and obligation to interrupt or suspend the presentation if the conduct or content being presented by the speaker is judged to be in poor taste or endangers the health and safety of the students/staff.

END OF POLICY

---

### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 336.067](#)

[OAR 581-022-1020](#)