

Controversial Issues/Speakers

Notification of Issues

1. Grades K-8: Before known sensitive or controversial issues or materials are presented, the principal or his/her designee will send home written notification informing parents of the subject matter and informing them of their option to remove their student from such instruction.
2. Grades 9-12: Students will be informed upon enrolling in a course that it might include sensitive material. Students will be verbally reminded on a regular basis before the presentation of such material by teachers.
3. Parents may also request that their student be excused from specific school programs or learning activities which conflict with a student's disabilities or religious beliefs or other reasons deemed appropriate by the principal or his/her designee. These requests must be presented to the building administrator in writing.
4. Students who are removed from class in grades K-8 at their parents' request or in grades 9-12 either at parent request or student request will be provided with alternative learning projects if appropriate and timely as approved by the principal.

Teaching about Issues

1. Before conducting a class or lesson in the study of an obviously controversial topic, teachers shall discuss with the principal:
 - a. Its appropriateness to the course;
 - b. Its appropriateness for the maturity level of the students;
 - c. The approach to instruction; and
 - d. The teaching materials to be used.
2. Teachers will represent all reasonable sides of controversial issues and will guard against giving their personal opinions until students have had an opportunity to:
 - a. Find, collect and assemble factual material on the subject;
 - b. Interpret the data without prejudice; and
 - c. Consider assumptions and claims and reach their own conclusions.

Speakers

1. The teacher/sponsor will inform the principal of the issues and resource persons or speakers.
2. Principals shall approve all such speakers or persons.
3. No person who encourages or advocates breaking the law shall be invited to speak.
4. The ideas presented and the speaker invited to present them shall have a demonstrable relationship to the curricular or cocurricular activity in which the participating students are involved.
5. Prior to his/her appearance or participation, the speaker shall be given in writing and shall agree to abide by the following regulations:
 - a. Profanity, vulgarity and lewd comments are prohibited;
 - b. Smoking is not permitted while speaking or consulting with students; and
 - c. The teacher/sponsor responsible for inviting the resource person, or any member of the school administration, has the right and duty to interrupt or suspend any proceedings if the conduct of the speaker is, in their opinion, judged to be in poor taste or endangering to the safety of students, staff or property.