

Springfield School District 19

Code: **IB**
Adopted: 3/17/05
Readopted: 6/25/07
Orig. Code(s): IB

Freedom of Expression

The Board seeks to educate young 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 the Bill of Rights.

The Board recognizes the right of the teachers to teach what they believe to be the truth about the subject matter in the areas in which they are by training and preparation demonstrated to be competent. However, the teacher must not use the classroom and position to force personal beliefs on students.

Freedom will be guaranteed to teachers to create a classroom atmosphere that allows students to raise questions dealing with critical issues. Teachers may teach about controversial issues which have political, economic or social significance in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice to help students understand and formulate opinions through a dispassionate factual approach.

Teachers are responsible for exercising judgment in selecting issues of educational value for discussion.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.072](#)

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 339.880](#)

[ORS 339.885](#)

HB 3279 (2007)

[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):

IGDA - Student Organizations

IGDB - Student Publications

INB - Studying Controversial Issues