

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Public education in a pluralistic society must strive to present, as objectively as possible, varied events, activities and perceptions reflected in history, literature and other sources of humanity's thought and expression. A major goal of education in a free society is to develop persons who can think critically, understand their culture, live compassionately with others, make sound decisions and live with the consequences of their judgment. Because points of view differ and biases exist, students must have access to materials which express this diversity of perspective. Under the initiatives of Educating Cleveland's Children, the District is working to develop multicultural programs and policies.

In order to effectively implement such programs and policies, it is the responsibility of teachers to make certain that access to materials presenting diverse perspectives is available. Teachers should take into account the relative maturity of their students and the need for guidance and help in studying issues and arriving at balanced views. All instruction conforms to adopted courses of study.

The principle of academic freedom presupposes intellectual honesty on the part of the person who exercises it and that he/she can and will discriminate among facts relating to an issue. In expressing a personal opinion, a teacher makes it known to students that the view is his/her own and does not attempt to bring students to a commitment to that personal viewpoint. Artistic expression of both teachers and students is entitled to First Amendment protections. However, speech or conduct of a sexual or hostile nature can exceed the protections of academic freedom and the First Amendment and may subject persons engaging in unprotected speech or acts to discipline under the District's harassment and/or nondiscrimination policies, as well as disciplinary policies.

[Adoption date: June 28, 2001]

CROSS REFERENCES

AC, Policy Prohibiting Discrimination/Harassment in Employment

ACH, Policy Prohibiting Discrimination/Harassment of Students

ACB Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment of District Employees

ACD, Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment of Students

EDE, Computer/On-Line Services

INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues

JB, Equal Educational Opportunity

CONTRACT REFERENCES

Teachers' Negotiated Agreement

NOTE: THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY