

Studying Controversial Issues

The Board holds that opportunities must be provided for the examination of controversial issues through discussion and reading bearing upon these issues in order for students to develop skills and abilities in critical thinking. Such issues should be appropriate to the age level of the students involved and within recognized public school subject matter areas. Students should be provided with the opportunity to study and discuss all sides of an issue in an atmosphere free from compulsion. Students should feel free to express an opinion different from other members of the class or from that of the teacher.

It is the teacher's responsibility to plan and organize class discussion to effect a reasonable and fair discussion of issues when such issues are a reasonable part of the course of study assigned to that teacher.

A teacher shall not reflect unfavorably upon an individual student because of their age, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, color, national origin, disability, marital or parental status.

No bulletin, circular or other material of any character designed to spread propaganda or to foster membership or subscriptions to the fund of any organization not related to or under the control of the school shall be distributed or shown to students on school premises in support of indoctrination.

No teacher shall advocate or teach any politicalism or any sectarian (denominational) doctrine, with the intent to indoctrinate any student with or inculcate a preference for a particular doctrine. This in no way is meant to prohibit teachers from teaching about religions (particularly the Judeo-Christian Ethic) nor is it intended to prohibit the teaching of our American form of democracy.

It is expected that all teachers will give continuous instruction in the manners and morals acceptable to the larger community in which the public schools exist. The teaching of respect for the flag, the ideals and freedoms for which the flag stands and an appreciation for the Constitution of the United States is encouraged and expected consistent with Oregon Statutes.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 336.067
OAR 581-022-1910
U.S. CONST. amend. I.
OR. CONST., art. I.