
CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES AND MATERIALS

Background

The District recognizes that the prescribed and authorized curricula includes issues and materials which may be viewed as controversial. It supports the concept that students are to be able to study ideas of political, economic, or social significance and to formulate opinions.

With this intent, students are to have the opportunity to study under competent instruction in an atmosphere free from bias, prejudice, indoctrination, or propaganda. Students are also to have access to relevant information through the school or public libraries.

Procedures

1. No teacher shall attempt to indoctrinate students with their personal political, sexual, racial, or social beliefs.
2. The teaching of controversial issues will be productive when:
 - 2.1. The teacher keeps the Principal and parents informed when they perceive those sensitive issues will be involved.
 - 2.2. The issues have relevance and therefore, interest for the student.
 - 2.3. The topic and materials used are appropriate to the age group.
 - 2.4. The topic is related to school programs.
 - 2.5. Alternative points of view are properly and fairly presented.
 - 2.6. The students have free access to appropriate materials and information for analysis and evaluation of the issues.
 - 2.7. The teacher can create an atmosphere of mutual respect and thoughtful consideration, where discussion of a variety of viewpoints is encouraged.

Reference: Sections 7, 8, 17, 20, 22, 65, 76, 85 *School Act*
Civil Rights Protection Act
Human Rights Code
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Evaluating, Selecting, and Managing Learning Resources: A Guide (2002)

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