

InstructionControversial Issues

Effective education not only permits but often requires that controversial issues be considered in the classroom. Students shall have the opportunity for responsible discussion of controversial issues.

It is the Weston Board of Education's policy to give wide freedom of expression, subject to the following guidelines:

1. The issue must be relevant to the course of study.
2. The presentation must be fair and objective. Biased material should be identified and a counterbalance provided.
3. Matters of opinion should be distinguished from matters of fact.
4. The issue must be explored thoroughly, and in such depth as the maturity of the students allows.

The discussion and study of controversial issues shall be objective and scholarly, with a minimum emphasis on opinion. The teacher shall approach controversial issues in the classroom in an impartial and unprejudiced manner, and must refrain from using classroom privileges and prestige to promote a partisan point of view.

Instructional policy on controversial issues is stated by the Board of Education to protect teachers and school administrators from unwarranted attack by pressure groups, and to insure youth a well-balanced preparation for American citizenship.

(cf. 1220 - Citizens' Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1312 - Public Complaints)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6161 - Equipment, Books, Materials: Provision/Selection)

Instruction

Controversial Issues

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

31-51q Liability of employer for discipline or discharge of employee on account of employee's exercise of certain constitutional rights.

Keyishian v. Board of Regents 385 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81)

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WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Weston, Connecticut