

**CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

The Board of Education believes that the consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the schools. For purposes of this policy, a controversial issue is a topic likely to arouse both support and opposition in the community.

When controversial issues have not been specified in the curriculum guide, the Board will permit the instructional use of only those issues which have been approved by the Principal in advance. The Board recognizes that some deviation from the assigned curriculum guide is necessary in the free exchange of the classroom. However, the Board specifies for the guidance of the Superintendent and through administrative directive, the guidance of the staff, that any discussion of controversial issues in the classroom shall be conducted in an unprejudiced and dispassionate manner and shall not:

- a. disrupt the educational process
- b. fail to match the maturity level of students
- c. be unrelated to the goals of the Board

In the discussion of any issue, a teacher may express a personal opinion, but shall identify it as such, and must not express such an opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view.

Reference: 18A:33-1, 34-1

**Date:** Adopted: 4/30/97

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