

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.

It is the responsibility of the teacher to make certain that such access to materials presenting various sides of an issue is available. Teachers must 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 will conform to adopted courses of study and/or Ohio academic content standards.

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.

[Adoption date: January 10, 2000]

CROSS REF.: AC, Nondiscrimination/Harassment
EDE, Computer/On-Line Services
INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities

CONTRACT REF.: Certificated Staff Negotiated Agreement