

Instruction

Controversial Issues

Students in the schools shall have the opportunity for responsible discussion of controversial issues.

Such free discussion requires that students have the following rights:

1. The right to study any issue which has political, economic or social significance and concerning which the student at his/her level should begin to have an opinion.
2. The right to free access to all relevant information, including the materials that circulate freely in the community.
3. The right to study under competent instructors in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.
4. The right to form and express his/her own opinions of controversial issues without thereby jeopardizing relations with the teacher or the school.

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 certified employees of the school district from unwarranted attack by individuals or groups, and to insure youth a well-balanced preparation for American citizenship.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes

31-51q Liability of employer for discipline or discharge of employee on account of employee's exercises 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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EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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