

**BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT #52
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT**

Subject: Studying Controversial Issues

Policy Number: INB Effective Date: 10/2024

Date of Original Policy and Revisions: 1/84, 6/92, 4/99, 2/00, 3/07, 12/09, 11/12

Cancels Policy: _____ Dated: _____

Date of Next Review: 10/2027

POLICY

The Board recognizes that differences of opinion may occur in classes where students are encouraged to seek understanding of facts and form opinions. Developing students' abilities to examine issues without prejudice and to withhold judgments while facts are being collected, assembled and weighed, and to see relationships before drawing inferences or conclusions are among the most valuable outcomes of a free educational system.

The presentation and discussion of controversial issues will be informative. Teachers will present an overall view of controversial issues and will guard against giving personal opinions until students have an opportunity to:

1. Find, collect and assemble factual material on the subject;
2. Interpret the data without prejudice;
3. Reconsider assumptions and claims and to reach their own conclusions.

By refraining from expressing personal views before and during the period of research and study, the teacher will encourage students to search after truth and to think for themselves.

Before beginning a class in the study of an obviously controversial topic, a teacher will discuss with the principal:

1. Its appropriateness to the course;
2. Its appropriateness for the students' maturity level;
3. The approach to instruction;
4. The instructional materials to be used.

REPORTS

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

END OF POLICY

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REFERENCES / COMMENTS

[ORS 336.067](#)

[OAR 581-021-0009](#)

U.S. CONST. amend. I.

OR. CONST., art. I.

[Administrative Rule IIA. Reconsideration Request Form for Reevaluation of Instructional Material](#)