



"To Build Knowledge and Skills for Success Today and Tomorrow"

File: IB

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM

It is the right of qualified teachers to encourage freedom of discussion in the classroom and to develop in students a love of knowledge and a desire to search for truth. While academic freedom is not a guaranteed political right it is a necessary condition for the successful practice of the teaching profession in a free society.

The board believes that academic freedom also carries with it academic responsibility, which is determined by the basic ideals and institutions of the local community as they are expressed in the goals and objectives of the school district.

As a consequence of its responsibility to guarantee academic freedom to both students and teachers, the board expects that:

1. All classroom studies will be curriculum or standards-related, and will be presented factually, objectively, and impartially.
2. Teachers will create and maintain an atmosphere of fair-mindedness and reasonable tolerance for different points of view.
3. Teachers will respect the students' opinion concerning any issue, making certain that full and fair consideration is given to the subject and that facts are carefully examined as to their accuracy and interpretation.

While the board intends to protect teachers from any undue restraint that interferes with their classroom duties, the ultimate responsibility for determining the content of the curriculum and the manner in which it is delivered must rest with the Board. It also expects that when controversial issues are presented, the maturity and intellectual grasp of the students will be taken into account and parents will be notified as it is necessary and appropriate.

Adopted January 14, 2003