



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

File: INB

## TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

The Board believes that public schools have an obligation to prepare students for intelligent and conscientious participation in a democratic society. Such participation requires that students have the opportunity to become cognizant of public issues; to learn the skills of analyzing current problems and arguments; to distinguish between fact and opinion; to gather and organize pertinent facts; and to respect the opinions of others. The schools have the additional responsibility of providing students the opportunity to identify, form, and express their own opinions on controversial issues.

Teachers will use the following guidelines for selection and study of controversial issues in the classroom:

1. The topic and method used in its study should contribute toward helping students develop techniques for examining other controversial issues.
2. The issue should be appropriate to the maturity level background of the students in the class.
3. The issue should be related to the course content and help achieve course objectives.
4. A balanced and fair presentation of the issue should be presented.

Teachers desiring to bring resources people into the class to discuss a particular viewpoint on a controversial issue must first obtain the endorsement of the principal. Similar guidelines shall apply to the approval of topics and speakers for school assemblies and for activities outside the classroom.

Adopted July 14, 1986