

ANACORTES SCHOOL DISTRICT #103

Policy No. 2331
Instruction

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES/OUTSIDE RESOURCE PERSONS

The District shall offer courses of study which will afford learning experiences appropriate to the level of student understanding. The instructional program shall respect the right of students to face issues, to have free access to information, to study under teachers in situations free from prejudice and to form, hold, and express their own opinions without personal prejudice or discrimination.

Among the most valuable products, therefore, of a free educational system is the development of the ability to meet issues without prejudice and to withhold judgments until facts are collected, assembled and weighed and relationships seen before making conclusions.

This policy sets forth four basic rights of parent and students:

1. The right to abstain from participating in educational process that, in their judgment, constitutes an invasion of privacy, or an abridgment of their social or religious belief.
2. The right to study controversial issues which have political, economic or social significance on which, at their respective maturity level, students should begin to develop an opinion.
3. The right to study under competent instruction in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.
4. The right of access to all relevant information freely available in the school.

Emotional criticism and the promotion of a cause within the classroom are both inappropriate and unscholarly. The teacher's attitude, in all matters, should be that of the true scholar which is truth-seeking, open-minded and tolerant.

Teachers shall guide discussions and procedures with thoroughness and objectivity to acquaint students with the need to recognize opposing viewpoints, the importance of fact, the value of judgment and the virtue of respect for conflicting opinions. Teachers will exercise professional judgment in determining the appropriateness of the issue to the curriculum and the development of the students. When in doubt regarding appropriateness, the matter should be referred to the principal.

OUTSIDE RESOURCE PERSONS

Classroom teachers are encouraged to use outside resource persons to enrich the learning environments and provide expertise beyond that of the classroom teacher. All outside resource persons must be approved, in advance, by the building principal. The teacher must clearly indicate the relationship between the use of the outside resource person and the established curriculum and the teacher's instructional plan.

