

BEND-LA PINE SCHOOLS

Administrative School District No. 1

Deschutes County, Oregon

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Name: Studying Controversial Issues

Section: Instruction

Code: INB-AP

A controversial issue may be defined as any topic or problem which society is in the process of debating on with there is honest disagreement. Such issues arise when different interpretations are given to a particular set of circumstances.

The basic goal of studying controversial issues should be to enable the student to develop techniques for considering such questions, techniques which they will use habitually later in life. Learning situations shall provide opportunities for the development of clear thinking, balanced judgement, intelligent choices, informed opinion, an ability to differentiate fact from opinion, and understanding of propaganda devices. Issues studied should come within the range of knowledge, maturity, and competence of the students. Issues selected for study should be current, significant and engaging for students.

The role of the teacher is to assist the student with the process used by the social scientist to identify, study, and solve problems. The teacher avoids indoctrination in his/her own personal viewpoint and does not attempt to control or limit the judgement of students expressing defensible views. Teachers present multiple sides of controversial issues and guard against their personal opinions until students have an opportunity to find, collect, and assemble appropriately supported material on the subject; interpret the data without prejudice; and reconsider assumptions and claims to reach their own conclusions. The selection of materials, guest speakers and classroom activities in general are done with studied impartiality for the purpose of fairly presenting multiple sides of an issue.

The administration of this policy in the district is the immediate responsibility of the principal under the guidance of procedures outlined in INB-AR: Studying Controversial Issues Process.

END OF POLICY

ORS 336.067

OAR 581-022-1020

OAR 581-022-1910

U.S. CONST. amend. I.

OR CONST. art. I

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