

DODGELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Policy Manual

381

TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Students, like their parents/guardians and teachers, live in the midst of controversy over many issues. Differences of opinion are a continuing and important part of life in a democratic society. It is, therefore, a responsibility of the District to help students develop the rational thinking skills that are needed for an objective approach to a study of issues on which people differ.

Rational discussion of controversial issues shall be an important part of the school program. The teacher shall help students identify relevant information, learn the techniques of critical analysis, make independent judgments, and prepare to present and support opinions. The teacher shall also help students recognize the continuing need to objectively re-examine issues in light of new information and changing conditions in society.

No student shall be required to read printed material, see or hear other audio-visual material, or listen to a speaker relative to beliefs, issues or ideas that are contrary to the moral convictions or religious beliefs of the student and/or the parent/guardian of a minor student. A request for exclusion of a student from an assignment or activities shall be submitted in writing to the building principal. The request shall be processed and alternative instruction provided to the student in accordance with legal requirements, Board policies and established procedures.

LEGAL REF:	Sections	118.001 Wisconsin Statutes
		118.01
		118.019
		120.12(2)
		120.13
		121.02(1)(b)

CROSS REF:	381-Rule, Guidelines for Teaching about Controversial Issues
	330, Curriculum Development and Adoption
	333, Student Privacy/Parent Rights and District Programs/Activities
	341.31, Family Life Education
	361.1, Instructional Materials Selection and Evaluation
	363.2, Student Technology Use
	381.1 – Rule, Procedures to Accommodate Student Religious Beliefs
	871, Public Complaints about Educational Materials

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