

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The School Committee believes that academic freedom is essential to the fulfillment of the purposes of the school system. It acknowledges the fundamental need to protect staff members from any censorship or restraint which might interfere with their obligation in the performance of their classroom functions. Accordingly, the School Committee holds that:

1. The nature of American democracy requires that citizens be able to listen to all sides of a controversial issue, sort out the facts, and arrive at independent conclusion. Students in school, therefore, have a right to be exposed to issues which are within their intellectual grasp and are under current debate in our society
2. This right to students imposes certain obligations upon the School Committee, the staff, and the community. Among these is the obligation of the staff to present all sides of an issue.
3. The School Committee will attempt through its policies to employ capable staff, supply them with the necessary teaching materials, and maintain an atmosphere of academic freedom in the schools.
4. The community has a right to expect that controversial issues will be presented in a fair and unbiased manner, and to communicate through proper channels to the School Committee if convinced that they are not.

Adoption date: March 1, 1993

Effective date: March 1, 1993

SANFORD SCHOOL DEPARTMENT