

Instruction

CONCEPTS AND ROLES

BP 6000 (a)

The Iditarod School Board believes that the district and community must work together to ensure that educational goals and objectives are relevant to the lives and future of our students. The Iditarod School Board shall adopt policies which define district philosophy and goals. The Superintendent or designee shall provide for the development of districtwide instructional objectives.

(cf. 0100 - Philosophy)
(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

The Iditarod School Board recognizes the importance of planning, implementing and evaluating the instructional program and shall provide the resources necessary for ongoing review and improvement of the district curriculum.

(cf. 0500 - Review and Evaluation)
(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

In order to keep abreast of educational trends and changing student needs, the Iditarod School Board supports a continuing program of inservice education for certificated staff, the administration, and Iditarod School Board members.

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)
(cf. 9240 - School Board Development)

Note: United States Code, Title 20, Section 2728 and the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Section 200.43 **mandate** districts receiving Title 1 funds to establish and implement a districtwide salary schedule and written policy ensuring the equivalent provision of staff, curriculum materials and instructional supplies among schools. Pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Section 298.23 recipients of Chapter 2 funds also must demonstrate that program services, equipment, materials and supplies are supplementary to the regular program.

The district shall provide comparable educational opportunities for all students. The Superintendent or designee shall schedule teachers and classes so that there is a minimum variation in the student-teacher ratio from school to school at the beginning of each school year. He/she shall further ensure that the amount and quality of textbooks, instructional supplies and equipment are closely comparable in every district school and at each level.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination)
(cf. 6171 - Title 1 Programs)

Instruction in the core curriculum shall not be diminished when students receive supplementary services funded by special governmental programs.

IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014

Instruction

CONCEPTS AND ROLES (continued)

BP 6000 (b)

The Iditarod School Board

1. Articulates the district's educational philosophy and goals through Iditarod School Board policy and approves districtwide instructional objectives which reinforce the district's philosophy and goals.
2. Adopts all curriculum and graduation requirements.
3. Determines the educational programs to be offered to the district's students.
4. Approves instructional materials and resources to be used in the district's curriculum.
5. Reviews the instructional program and evaluates the education received by students using available data including results of state and district student assessments.

The Superintendent or Designee

1. Establishes procedures for the ongoing review, evaluation, and development of the district's curriculum.
2. Ensures the articulation and integration of the district curriculum between educational levels.
3. Administers the district's educational program and reports to the Iditarod School Board on the accomplishment of district goals and objectives using available data including results of the state and district student assessments through testing and other types of appraisal.
4. Decides the general methods of instruction to be used.
5. Assigns instructors and schedules classes for all curricular offerings.

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

CONCEPTS AND ROLES (continued)

BP 6000 (c)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

- 14.03.060 Elementary, junior high and secondary schools*
- 14.03.090 Sectarian or denominational doctrines prohibited*
- 14.08.111 Duties (regional school boards)*
- 14.14.090 Additional duties*
- 14.14.110 Cooperation with other districts*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

- 2728(c) Fiscal requirements/comparability of services*
- 2971 (b) Federal funds supplementary*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

- 200.43 Comparability of services requirements, Chapter 1*
- 298.23 Comparability of services requirements, Chapter 2*

Instruction

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

BP 6010 (a)

Note: The following policy may be revised to reflect a local school board's goals and objectives for student achievement. However, Alaska regulation 4 AAC 06.825 requires school districts to set target dates for a graduation rate of 90% or better, and an attendance rate of 95% or better. Effective 2014, if a school or subgroup does not meet the four-year or five-year graduation rate, it may qualify for an alternative graduation rate. If 10 or fewer students, after approved adjustments, enrolled in the ninth grade four or five years earlier, then the target graduation rates are satisfied if all but one of those students graduate. The subgroups are identified at 4 AAC 06.830 as follows: 1) students with limited English proficiency; 2) students with disabilities; 3) economically disadvantaged students; 4) African-Americans; 5) Alaska Native and American Indians; 6) students of two or more races; 7) Asians or Pacific Islanders; 8) Hispanics; and 9) whites.

Student Achievement

The Iditarod School Board recognizes that the key work of school boards is to establish and promote a clear vision of student achievement as the top priority of the district. Student achievement will be defined by the district and include but not be limited to, assessment results, student attendance and drop-out rates, graduation rates, and percentages of students earning certificates of completion and diplomas.

The Iditarod School Board recognizes that student achievement cannot occur if students do not regularly attend school. For this reason, it is the Iditarod School Board's long term goal to achieve an attendance rate of 95% or better for the district's schools and its students.

Graduation represents the culmination of a student's achievement in the district. The Iditarod School Board believes that all students have the potential to graduate. It is the Iditarod School Board's long term goal to achieve a graduation rate of 90% or better for the district's schools and its students.

The superintendent will ensure development and implementation of a comprehensive, collaborative planning process that engages the school community in the district's continuous student achievement improvement program efforts to achieve the district's vision and mission.

The district's program will be consistent with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development requirements for content standards and high school graduation.

The Iditarod School Board will, in striving for continuous improvement of student achievement, annually review district and individual school data on student achievement, prioritize, allocate and realign resources as necessary.

The superintendent will develop administrative regulations as needed to implement this policy.

(cf. 0100 – Philosophy)

Continued on next page:

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: April 2015**

Instruction

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (continued)

BP 6010 (b)

(cf. 0210 – Goals for Student Learning)

(cf. 0500 – Review and Evaluation)

(cf. 5000 – Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 6000 – Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 9000 – Role of School Board and Members)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.075 College and career readiness assessment

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4AAC 04.140 Content standards

4 AAC 06.825 Graduation and attendance rates

Revised 3/2015

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: April 2015**

Instruction

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

BP 6020

Note: For those districts receiving Title I funds, a policy on parental involvement is mandatory. (<i>See BP/AR 6171</i>)

The Iditarod School Board recognizes that parents/guardians are their children's first and most influential teachers and that continued parental involvement in the education of children contributes greatly to student achievement and conduct. Parents/guardians can directly affect academic success by reinforcing their children's motivation and commitment to education. The district shall include parent involvement strategies as a component of instructional planning.

Teachers and parents/guardians can better understand and meet student needs if they work together. All of our schools have a duty to communicate frequently with the home and to help parents/guardians develop skills and family management techniques which support classroom learning. Administrators and teachers should keep parents/guardians well informed about school expectations and tell them when and how they can assist their children in support of classroom learning activities. The Iditarod School Board encourages staff training in effective communication with the home.

The Iditarod School Board encourages parents/guardians to serve as volunteers in the schools and to attend student performances and school meetings.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 1250 - Visits to the Schools)

(cf. 5124 - Reporting to Parents)

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Make-Up Work)

(cf. 6171 - Title 1 Program)

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

SCHOOL CALENDAR

BP 6111

The Superintendent or designee shall recommend to the Iditarod School Board a school calendar that will meet the requirements of the law as well as the needs of the community, students and the work year as negotiated with district personnel.

Note: Amended in 2004 and retroactive to July 1, 2003, AS 14.03.030 mandates a school term of 180 days with some exceptions. With the approval of the Commissioner of Education: up to ten days may be used for teacher inservice training; “emergency closure days” may be substituted for days in session because of conditions posing a threat to the health or safety of students; or the School Board may adopt a different school term that includes at least 740 hours of instruction and study periods for students K-3 and at least 900 hours of instruction and study periods for pupils in grades 4-12. To utilize a different school term as just described, the School Board must submit an acceptable plan to the Commissioner demonstrating that students will receive the approximate equivalent of a 180-day term.

The school calendar shall show the beginning and ending school dates, legal and local holidays, orientation and teacher inservice days, number of teaching days, vacation periods and other pertinent dates.

(cf. 0530 – Discontinuation or Closure of Schools)
(cf. 6115 – Ceremonies and Observances)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES
14.03.030 School term

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
4 AAC 05.090 Discontinuation or Closure of Schools

IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014

Instruction

SCHOOL DAY

BP 6112

Note: Pursuant to AS 14.03.040, the school board may approve Saturday as a day in session.
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Unless otherwise approved by the District Board, the length of the school day shall meet the following requirements:

- K. Two hours daily for half-time students and four hours daily for full-time students, excluding breaks.
- 1-3 Four and one half hours, excluding breaks
- 4-8 Five and one half hours, excluding breaks
- 9-12 A six period day which consists of periods of 55 minutes or longer.

A break of 15 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes in the afternoon will be built into the elementary school schedule. Breaks will be built into the schedule for Junior High and Senior High School as needed to change classes and to allow for the school brunch program. A minimum lunch break of at least one half-hour will be scheduled between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. School shall not commence before 8:30 a.m.

Subject to Superintendent and Iditarod School Board approval, the Advisory School Board, in consultation with local school staff, may choose to set the length of the school day in addition to state and district requirements

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES
14.03.040 Day in session

IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014

Instruction

CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN

BP 6114 (a)

All district staff and students must be prepared to respond quickly and responsibly to emergencies, disasters, and events which threaten to result in a disaster. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a disaster preparedness plan for handling all foreseeable emergencies and disasters. This plan shall be reviewed and updated at least annually.

Principal/Principal-Teachers shall augment the district plan with working plans and procedures specific to each school building. All students and employees shall receive instruction regarding these plans.

The Superintendent or designee shall consult with city and/or borough officials so that district and site plans may provide the best possible way of handling each situation and also provide for emergency communications systems between these officials and each district school.

District and site plans shall address at least the following situations:

1. Fire in a building.
2. Fire from an external source, such as a forest, brush or grass.
3. Bomb threat or actual detonation.
4. Natural disasters, i.e., floods, heavy snows, blizzards, torrential rains, earthquakes, heavy winds.

(cf. 3514 - Safety)

(cf. 3515 - Security)

(cf. 5142 - Student Safety)

The Iditarod School Board shall grant the use of school buildings, grounds and equipment to public agencies, including the American Red Cross, for mass care and welfare shelters during disasters or other emergencies affecting the public health and welfare. The Board shall cooperate with such agencies in furnishing and maintaining whatever services it deems necessary to meet the community's needs.

Disaster simulation exercises shall be held annually at each school site and shall demonstrate how safety procedures may be applied to various types of emergencies.

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

EMERGENCIES AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN (continued) BP 6114 (b)

The Iditarod School Board encourages all employees to become proficient in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Each Principal/Principal-Teacher shall ascertain that at least one staff member at each school holds a valid certificate in these areas. The Superintendent or designee shall provide for CPR inservice training to be offered to district staff annually.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.030 School term

14.03.140 Emergency drills

18.70.080-18.70.300 Fire protection

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

EMERGENCIES AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN

AR 6114 (a)

Note: AS 14.03.140 requires monthly emergency drills, such drills should be geared to the types of emergencies likely to be experienced.

Principal/Principal-Teachers and site administrators shall hold emergency drills at least once a month, weather permitting. (AS 14.03.140)

The district disaster preparedness plan shall be available to staff, students and the public in the office of the Superintendent or designee and in the office of each Principal/Principal-Teacher. Individual building disaster plans shall be provided to each teacher and shall be available for public inspection at the Principal/Principal-Teacher's office. The Principal/Principal-Teacher shall make certain that students and staff are familiar with the plan and shall periodically conduct preparedness drills to ensure effective behavior in the event of an actual emergency or disaster.

1. Principal/Principal-Teacher

The Principal/Principal-Teacher or designee may assume overall direction of disaster procedures. Each Principal/Principal-Teacher shall prepare written disaster plans for his/her school and present a copy to the Superintendent or designee.

The Principal/Principal-Teacher shall:

- a. Direct evacuation of buildings, using fire signals and procedures as required for fire, threatened explosion, or following cessation of earthquake tremors, and using a manual bell for signals in case of power failure.
- b. Arrange for transfer of students when their safety is threatened by floods or approaching fires.
- c. Issue orders to teachers if children are to assemble in preselected safer areas within the school.
- d. Schedule monthly/periodical fire drills and keep appropriate records.
- e. Use discretionary judgment in emergencies which do not permit execution of prearranged plans.
- f. Inform the Superintendent or designee of all emergency actions taken as soon as possible.

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Instruction

EMERGENCIES AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN (continued) AR 6114 (b)

- g. Post directions for fire drills and civil defense drills in classrooms, multipurpose rooms, etc.

2. Teachers

Teachers shall be responsible for supervision of students in their charge. Teachers shall:

- a. Direct evacuation of students in their charge to inside or outside assembly areas in accordance with signals, warning written notification, or intercom orders.
- b. Give the DROP command during an earthquake.
- c. Take roll when the class is relocated in an outside or inside assembly area or at another location.
- d. Report missing students to the Principal/Principal-Teacher or designee.
- e. Send students in need of first aid to the person trained in first aid.

3. Custodian/Maintenance Personnel

Custodians/maintenance personnel are responsible for the use of emergency equipment, the handling of supplies and the use of available utilities. Custodians/maintenance personnel shall:

- a. Survey and report damage to the Principal/Principal-Teacher.
- b. Direct rescue operations as required.
- c. Direct fire fighting efforts until regular fire fighting personnel take over.
- d. Control main shutoff valves for gas, water and electricity and ascertain that no hazard results from broken gas, water mains or fallen electrical lines.
- e. Disburse supplies and equipment as needed.
- f. Conserve usable water supplies.

Instruction

EMERGENCIES AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN (continued) AR 6114 (c)

4. **The school secretary** shall:
 - a. Report a fire or disaster to the appropriate authorities.
 - b. Assist the Principal/Principal-Teacher as needed.
 - c. Provide for the safety of essential school records and documents.
5. **The school secretary** shall staff telephones, monitor radio emergency broadcasts, assist the school nurse as needed, and act as messengers and carriers when so directed.

Instruction

FIRE DRILLS AND FIRES

AR 6114.1

All students, teachers, and other employees shall be instructed as to leaving the school building in an orderly and rapid manner.

Principal/Principal-Teachers and teachers shall recognize that it is essential in any emergency to prevent panic by giving students clear direction and supervision. Teachers shall be prepared to select alternate exits and direct their classes to these exits in the event the designated escape route is blocked.

(cf. 6114 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plans)

A record shall be kept in the district office of each fire drill conducted.

In the event that fire is discovered in any part of the school, the fire department shall be called immediately after the signal is given to evacuate the building. Students and adults evacuate the building to outside assembly areas. Teachers shall ascertain that no student remains in the building. In outside assembly areas, teachers shall take roll, report missing students, and provide assistance to injured students.

If the fire is serious, students may be taken to an alternate location for protective custody until parents/guardians can pick them up or until they can be safely transported to their homes.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES
14.03.140 Emergency drills

IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014

Instruction

BOMB THREATS

AR 6114.2 (a)

Receiving Threats

Anyone answering a telephoned bomb threat shall try to keep the caller on the line and get answers to the following questions:

1. When is the bomb scheduled to go off?
2. Where is the bomb located?
3. What kind of bomb is it?
4. Who placed the bomb?
5. How do you know about the bomb?
6. What is your name and address?

The person who receives the call should also try to determine the caller's sex, age, and distinctive features of voice or speech and should take note of background noises such as music, traffic, machinery or other voices.

Anyone who receives a written bomb threat shall place it in an envelope and note where and by whom it was found.

Any employee or student who receives a bomb threat shall immediately report the threat to the Principal/Principal-Teacher or designee.

Procedures

Upon perceiving that a danger may exist, the Principal/Principal-Teacher or designee shall:

1. Immediately use fire drill signals to evacuate threatened areas.
 - a. Students and staff shall follow standard fire drill procedures.
 - b. Teachers shall take roll at their assigned areas and immediately report any absences to the Principal/Principal-Teacher or designee.
 - c. Teachers shall remain with their classes, well away from the school buildings, until relieved.

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Instruction

BOMB THREATS (continued)

AR 6114.2 (b)

2. Immediately turn off any two-way radio equipment which is located in a threatened building.
3. Immediately inform law enforcement authorities, the fire department, and the Superintendent or designee.

Law enforcement and/or fire department staff shall conduct the bomb search. School police officers may assist in this search. **No other school staff shall search for or handle any explosive or incendiary device.**

Except for school police officers, no staff or students shall reenter the threatened building(s) until the law enforcement and/or fire department staff advises the Principal/Principal-Teacher or designee that reentry is safe.

Within 24 hours, the Principal/Principal-Teacher or designee shall send the Superintendent or designee a complete report of the incident, identifying the person who received the threat and the grounds for believing the danger to be real.

The Superintendent or designee shall make every effort to identify individuals who make bomb threats and have them prosecuted. Students who make such threats shall be disciplined accordingly.

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion)

(cf. 6114 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

Instruction

EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

AR 6114.3 (a)

Earthquake While Indoors at School

When an earthquake occurs, the following actions shall be taken inside the school building and in individual classrooms:

1. The teacher or other person in authority shall implement the DROP action. Each student shall:
 - a. Get under equipment (desk, table, etc.) where available. Otherwise get next to an inside wall or under an inside doorway.
 - b. Drop to knees with back to the windows and knees together.
 - c. Clasp both hands firmly behind the head, covering the neck.
 - d. Bury face in arms, protecting the head. Close the eyes tightly.
 - e. Stay there until the procedure or emergency is over or until subsequent instructions are given. Such instructions will depend upon circumstances and the extent of damage to the buildings.
2. As soon as possible, teachers shall move the children away from windows and out from under heavy suspended light fixtures.
3. Teachers shall implement action to leave the building when the earthquake is over. Teachers shall ensure that students do not run, particularly on stairways.

Earthquake While on School Grounds

When an earthquake occurs, the following actions shall be taken if teachers and students are on school playgrounds:

1. The teacher or other person in authority shall direct the children to WALK away from buildings, trees, poles, or exposed wires.
2. The teacher shall implement the DROP action. Teachers and students shall cover as much skin surface as possible, close eyes, and cover ears.
3. Teachers and students shall stay in the open until the earthquake is over, or until further directions are given.

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Instruction

EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES (continued)

AR 6114.3 (b)

Earthquake While on the Bus

When students are on the school bus and an earthquake occurs, the following actions shall be taken:

1. The bus driver shall pull to the side of the road away from any buildings, poles, wires, overhead structures or bridges, if possible, and issue the DROP action.
2. The driver shall set the brakes and turn off the ignition.
3. The bus driver shall wait until the earthquake is over before proceeding on the route.
4. The bus driver shall contact the Transportation Director for instructions.
5. If the bus driver continues on, he/she shall watch for hazards created by earthquakes, such as fallen electrical wires, cracked roads, or fallen poles.

Subsequent Emergency Procedures

1. Teachers shall see that students avoid touching electrical wires that may have fallen.
2. Teachers or students shall not light any fires after the earthquake until the area is declared safe. Laboratory or shop teachers shall be watchful of students' relighting burners or stoves.
3. First aid shall be rendered if necessary.
4. Teachers shall take roll of their classes.
5. Guards shall be posted at a safe distance from all building entrances to see that no one reenters for any reason until the buildings are declared safe. Guards may be custodians, teachers, or students.
6. Custodian/maintenance personnel shall shut off all pilot lights on water heaters or furnaces, as well as stoves in homemaking classrooms.

Instruction

EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY PROCEDURE SYSTEM (continued) AR 6114.3 (c)

7. Assistance shall be requested as needed, through appropriate channels, from the local civil defense office or fire and police departments.
8. The Principal/Principal-Teacher shall notify utility companies of any break or suspected break in lines which may present an additional hazard. If damage has occurred, the custodian shall shut off all utilities at the main valve.
9. The Principal/Principal-Teacher shall, if possible, contact the district office for further instructions.
10. The Principal/Principal-Teacher shall determine the advisability of closing the school, with the advice of the Building Inspector if possible.
11. Following the quake, the Principal/Principal-Teacher and custodian shall inspect all buildings for safety in accordance with inspection procedures below.
12. If the building is safe for use, the Principal/Principal-Teacher or designee shall clear debris in order to resume educational activities as soon as possible.
13. Until such time as the buildings are safe for use, the Principal/Principal-Teacher shall arrange for other facility use, if available, so that the educational program may be continued with as little interruption as possible.

General Procedures

Students shall be taught the following safety precautions to be taken during an earthquake in the event that adults are not present to give specific directions:

1. The safest place to be is in the open. Stay there.
2. Move away from buildings, trees, and exposed wires. DO NOT RUN!
3. After the earthquake, if you are on your way to school, continue to school.
4. After the earthquake, if you are on your way home, continue home.

Instruction

EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY PROCEDURE SYSTEM (continued) AR 6114.3 (d)

Inspections After Earthquake

1. The school custodian/maintenance personnel shall make a thorough inspection immediately after a severe earthquake.

Check points: Large cracks affecting buildings
 Earth slippage affecting buildings
 Water leaks
 Gas leaks
 Electrical breakages

If leaks are detected, the custodian/maintenance personnel shall shut off the utility in the building affected and notify the maintenance department.

2. The building Principal/Principal-Teacher shall inspect the facility. If the Principal/Principal-Teacher believes the school is damaged sufficiently to be a hazard, he/she shall notify the Superintendent or designee and ask the Building Inspector to check for structural failure and equipment adequacy. Until this is done, the building shall not be occupied.
3. The Building Inspector shall be responsible for determining if the structure is safe for occupancy. The Superintendent or designee shall expedite reconstruction and replacement of equipment.

Instruction

PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EMERGENCIES

BP 6114.4 (a)

The Iditarod School Board recognizes that a pandemic/epidemic outbreak is a serious threat that stands to affect students, staff, and the community as a whole. With this consideration in mind, the Iditarod School Board establishes this policy in the event the town/municipality and/or school district is affected by a pandemic/epidemic outbreak. At all times the health, safety and welfare of the students shall be the first priority.

Planning and Coordination

The Superintendent or designee shall designate one or more staff members to serve as a liaison between the school district and local and state health officials. This designee is responsible for connecting with health officials to identify local hazards, determine what crisis plans exist in the school district and community, and to establish procedures to account for student well-being and safety during such a crisis. The designee shall work with local health officials to coordinate their pandemic/epidemic plans with that of the school district.

With fiscal concerns in mind, the district may purchase and store supplies necessary for an epidemic/pandemic outbreak, including but not limited to disinfectant products, face masks, water, examination gloves, and other supplies as recommended by health officials.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures and plans for the transportation of students in the event of an evacuation. Such procedures shall include provisions for students who cannot be transported to home at the time of the evacuation.

Response

In the event anyone within the school is discovered or suspected to have a communicable disease that may result in an epidemic/pandemic, that person may be quarantined pending further medical examination. Parents/guardians and local and state health officials shall be notified immediately.

In conjunction with local and state health officials, the Superintendent or designee shall ascertain whether an evacuation, lockdown, or shelter-in-place needs to be established. As soon as such a decision has been made, the school district shall attempt to notify the parents of all students.

In the event of an evacuation, the Superintendent or designee is charged with determining when the school shall re-open. In the event of a lockdown or shelter-in-place, the Superintendent or designee shall notify all proper authorities and relief agencies to seek their assistance for the duration of the lockdown or shelter-in-place.

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EMERGENCIES_(continued)

BP 6114.4 (b)

Infection Control

Any student or staff member found to be infected with a communicable disease that bears risk of pandemic/epidemic will not be allowed to attend school until medical clearance is provided by that individual's primary care physician or other medical personnel indicating that that person does not bear the risk of transmitting the communicable disease.

Continuance of Education

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan of alternate means of educating students in the event of prolonged school closings and/or extended absences. Such a plan may include providing students with assignments via mail, local access cable television, or the school district's website.

(cf. 5141.22 – Infectious Diseases)

(cf. 5141.23 – Infectious Disease Prevention)

(cf. 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion)

(cf. 6114 – Crisis Response Plan)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.02 School Year

14.30.045 (4) Grounds for suspension or denial of admission

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 05.090 The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, 45 C.F.R. 99

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

BP 6115 (a)

Patriotic Exercises

Note: By state law, the Pledge of Allegiance must be recited regularly. AS 14.03.130. A person/student is permitted to recite the salute to the flag or to maintain a respectful silence.

The Iditarod School Board encourages activities that instill pride in our country. The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited or patriotic exercises conducted on a regular basis as determined by the Iditarod School Board.

Note: Federal courts have held that individuals may not be compelled to salute the flag or even to stand during the salute.

The district respects the legal right of individuals not to participate in the salute to the flag for personal reasons. An individual not participating in the salute to the flag must maintain a respectful silence.

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

(cf. 6141.6 - Multicultural Education)

Special Days and Events

District schools shall commemorate special days and events in accordance with law. Schools are encouraged to recognize days and events of local significance.

Note: AS 14.03.050 allows the School Board to designate additional holidays. The following reflects school holidays designated by AS 14.030.050 and may be expanded as deemed appropriate.

District schools shall be closed in observance of Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day after, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July.

Holidays which fall on a Sunday shall be observed the following Monday. Holidays which fall on a Saturday shall be observed the preceding Friday.

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.050 School holidays

14.03.130 Display of flag and pledge of allegiance

41.15.900 Observance of Arbor Day

West Virginia State Board of Education, et al. v. Burnette, et al 319 U.S. 624 (1943)

Banks v. Board of Public Instruction, 314 F. Supp. 285

Hanover v. Northrup, 325 F. Supp. 170

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

CLASSROOM INTERRUPTIONS

BP 6116

The Iditarod School Board recognizes that class time should be dedicated to student learning.

The Iditarod School Board believes that classroom interruptions which are not related to the educational program should be kept at an absolute minimum.

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION

BP 6141 (a)

Note: 4 AAC 05.080 mandates that the School Board formally adopt at a regular meeting a curriculum, as specified, describing what will be taught.

The Iditarod School Board shall provide a comprehensive instructional program to serve the educational needs of the district's students. The Iditarod School Board accepts responsibility for establishing what students should learn. Therefore, the Iditarod School Board shall adopt a district curriculum which to the extent possible reflects the desires of the community, the needs of society, and the requirements of law.

Curriculum development and improvement is of primary importance and as such will be part of an ongoing process in this district. The Superintendent or designee shall have general coordinating authority over the design and development of curriculum. The Superintendent or designee shall develop a process for curriculum review and development which shall include the participation of teachers, administrators, students and parents/guardians. The Iditarod School Board recognizes that effective curriculum development requires the planned allocation of resources, staff time and inservice training.

(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

Note: 4 AAC 05.080 requires that the adopted curriculum include a statement that the curriculum is a guide for planning instructional strategies, a statement of goals the curriculum is expected to accomplish, the content designed to accomplish the goals, and a description of the means of evaluating the effectiveness of the curriculum.

The curriculum shall be consistent with and aligned to established state standards and the philosophy, goals and objectives of the district. The Superintendent or designee shall keep the Iditarod School Board informed regarding current district curriculum efforts and student achievement. The Superintendent or designee shall provide all necessary assistance to the Iditarod School Board in reviewing reports, information and data on each curriculum area for evaluation and adoption by the Iditarod School Board. Prior to adoption of districtwide curriculum, the Iditarod School Board shall discuss its findings with the staff, community and students.

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION (continued)

BP 6141 (b)

Note: 4 AAC 05.080 requires the review of content areas every six years.
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The Iditarod School Board may adopt a curriculum review cycle for each area of the curriculum which shall serve as the timeline for districtwide curriculum development. The Iditarod School Board shall review each content area at least once every six years.

Learning will be enhanced by an adherence to an integrated curriculum that promotes continuity and cumulative acquisition of skills and knowledge from grade to grade and school to school. Teachers are to align their teaching to district standards and curriculum.

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of Instructional Program)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.120 Education planning; reports

14.14.110 Cooperation with other districts

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 04.140 Content Standards

4 AAC 05.020 Definitions

4 AAC 05.080 School curriculum and personnel

4 AAC 06.885 School Recognition

4 AAC 51.310 Evaluations

Revised 4/14

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS

BP 6141.2 (a)

Note: As a condition of receiving Title I funds, school districts must annually certify, in writing, to the Department of Education and Early Development that no district policy prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools.

Note: Pursuant to AS 14.03.090, partisan, sectarian, or denominational doctrines may not be advocated in a public school during the hours the school is in session. A teacher or school board violating this section may not receive public money.

Factual and objective teaching about religion must be distinguished from religious indoctrination, which is forbidden in public schools. The schools may teach about religion from a historical, cultural, sociological or other educational perspective, but must not favor the beliefs and customs of any particular religion or sect over any others in such teaching.

Instructional programs may include references to religion and may use religious literature, art, music or symbols to illustrate the subject matter being taught. Such instruction should be designed to broaden the students' understanding of social and cultural history and their tolerance for the multiple ways of life practiced by the peoples of the world. Instruction about religious holidays shall be carefully tied to these educational objectives.

The Iditarod School Board recognizes the rights of all students to engage in private religious activity, individually or in groups. This may include reading of religious texts, religious discussions, and prayer. It is the policy of the Iditarod School Board not to prevent, or otherwise deny participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in the schools, consistent with guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education and applicable judicial decisions interpreting the religion clauses of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Staff members shall be sensitive to their obligation not to interfere with the philosophical/religious development of each student, in whatever tradition the student embraces. Students may voluntarily pray at any time before, during, or after the school day when not engaged in instruction or other school activities, subject to the same rules of order that apply to other student activities.

School-sponsored programs should not be, nor have the effect of being, religiously oriented or a religious celebration.

Note: The paragraph recognizes that holidays often raise concerns regarding religion in the schools. The following language prohibits the use of religious symbols during holidays and may be revised or deleted in light of community standards and practices.

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS (continued) BP 6141.2 (b)

The Iditarod School Board respects the diversity and rich heritage of our community members. Classroom decorations and costumes during holidays may express seasonal themes which are not religious in nature.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6115 - Ceremonies and Observances)

(cf. 6144 - Controversial Issues)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.090 Sectarian or denominational doctrines prohibited

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT, § 9524, P.L. 107-110 (2002)

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

BP 6141.3

Note: A.S. 14.20.020 requires multicultural training for issuance of teaching certificates. A.S. 14.20.035 gives preference in hiring persons with training or experience in cultures represented in the student population.

The Iditarod School Board recognizes that America has always been a multicultural society composed of diverse peoples who came here from all parts of the globe. Public schools are the most common shared experience for most Americans, and it is the job of the schools to accurately reflect the contributions of all ethnic groups to the common culture.

Students must learn to respect and work cooperatively with persons of all backgrounds. Instruction should help students realize the value of individual differences as well as the human dignity and worth common to all people.

The Iditarod Area School District is committed to providing students with a multi-cultural education. This philosophy is based on the underlying beliefs that:

1. each student is a unique individual with valued experiences, opinions and language,
2. an individual's self-esteem is directly related to the respect that is accorded to his/her experiences, opinions and languages,
3. each student needs to have an understanding, appreciation and respect for his/her own culture and of other cultures in order to be able to deal successfully with the changing world. It is also acknowledged that language is an integral part of any culture.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

(cf. 6174 - Bilingual-Bicultural Education)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.20.020 Requirements for issuance of certificate

14.20.035 Evaluation of training and experience

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

FAMILY LIFE/SEX EDUCATION

BP 6142.1 (a)

Note: For districts receiving federal funds, section 9526 of the No Child Left Behind Act sets limitations on how districts approach sexual subject matter and sex education. The law requires that federal funds *not* be used to (1) develop or distribute products or programs that encourage or promote sexual activity, (2) distribute or aid in the distribution by any organization of obscene materials on school grounds, (3) provide sex education or HIV prevention education unless that instruction is age appropriate and emphasizes abstinence, or (4) operate a program of contraceptive distribution in schools. Non-federal funds may be used for these activities.

The Iditarod School Board believes that a wholesome, well-planned sequence of instruction about family life and human sexuality is essential to the general education of all students. Lack of information or pervasive misinformation can cause low self-esteem, increased risk for sexually transmitted disease, unintended pregnancy or sterility, and school dropout. The district curriculum shall help students understand the biological, psychological, social, moral, and ethical aspects of human sexuality.

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

The family life/sex education program shall encourage students to be abstinent and to conceptualize sexual behavior in the ethical and moral context of marriage. The program shall be age-appropriate and shall address a full range of topics, including parenting and birth control, and shall emphasize that abstinence from sex is the only totally effective protection against unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

The Superintendent or designee will inform district curriculum specialists, those who teach sex education, and other appropriate school staff of federal funding restrictions regarding the distribution of contraceptives and the development and distribution of materials that may promote or encourage sexual activities. Teachers who provide instruction in family life/sex education shall have professional preparation, either preservice or inservice, in the subject area.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that family life/sex education materials and instruction are continuously evaluated in light of information received from students, parents/guardians, and teachers, including information about what students did or did not learn, whether the program was workable for the teachers, and how it can be improved.

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

FAMILY LIFE/SEX EDUCATION (continued)

BP 6142.1 (b)

The Iditarod School Board may appoint a Family Life/Sex Education Advisory Committee representing a divergence of viewpoints to participate in planning, implementing and evaluating the district's family life/sex education program.

(cf. 1220 - Advisory Committees)

Parents/guardians shall be notified in writing before students are offered any instruction in which human reproductive organs and their functions, processes, or diseases are described, illustrated, or discussed. This notification shall inform parents/guardians that they may review instructional materials to be used in family life, sex education instruction and that they may request in writing that their child not attend the class. At the parent/guardian's request, any student may be excused from any part of family life/sex education instruction.

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.30.360 Curriculum

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 9526, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110)

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

AIDS INSTRUCTION

BP 6142.2 (a)

Note: For districts receiving federal funds, section 9526 of the No Child Left Behind Act sets limitations on how districts approach sexual subject matter and sex education. The law requires that federal funds *not* be used to (1) develop or distribute products or programs that encourage or promote sexual activity, (2) distribute or aid in the distribution by any organization of obscene materials on school grounds, (3) provide sex education or HIV prevention education unless that instruction is age appropriate and emphasizes abstinence, or (4) operate a program of contraceptive distribution in schools. Non-federal funds may be used for these activities.

The Iditarod School Board recognizes that Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) poses a public health crisis. At the present time, society's most effective weapon against the spread of this deadly disease is public education.

The number of AIDS cases is steadily increasing. In the course of living their daily lives, our students will come into contact with people who have AIDS. Therefore the district's health education program will include factual information about AIDS and how the disease is transmitted. Students must be told what voluntary behaviors result in infection and also be motivated to prevent infection by making wise decisions in their daily lives. Instruction shall emphasize that abstinence from sex is the only totally effective protection against AIDS through sexual transmission.

Instruction must be appropriate to the age and grade level of the students receiving it. The Iditarod School Board particularly desires that students receive proper AIDS education before they reach the age when they may adopt behaviors which put them at risk of contracting AIDS.

In order for AIDS instruction to be most effective, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff members who will present this instruction receive continuing inservice training which includes appropriate teaching strategies and techniques.

Parents/guardians and community members representing divergent viewpoints should have input into the selection and/or development of instructional materials to be used in AIDS instruction. The curriculum shall be updated regularly.

(cf. 6142.1 - Family Life/Sex Education)

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Design)

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

AIDS INSTRUCTION (continued)

BP 6142.2 (b)

In the elementary grades, AIDS education shall be provided by the regular classroom teacher and shall be designed principally to allay excessive fears of the epidemic and of becoming infected.

In middle school and high school, AIDS education shall be provided by the health education teacher as part of a comprehensive health education program.

Sufficient classroom time should be provided to fully cover essential knowledge appropriate for each grade level and allow students time to ask questions and discuss issues raised by the information presented.

In cooperation with local health agencies, the Superintendent or designee shall provide a program of orientation and information about AIDS and the AIDS Instructional program for parents/guardians and interested members of the community. This program shall include the opportunity to examine all instructional materials before they are used with our students.

Before students receive AIDS instruction, parents/guardians shall be notified. Alternative study arrangements may be made for students whose parents/guardians ask that they not receive instruction.

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints concerning Instructional Material)
(cf. 5141.23 - Infectious Disease Prevention)
(cf. 6142.1 - Family Life/Sex Education)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.30.360 Curriculum

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 9526, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110)

IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014

Instruction

SCIENCE INSTRUCTION

BP 6142.3

The Iditarod School Board believes that science education should give students an understanding of key scientific concepts and a capacity for scientific ways of thinking. Students should become familiar with the natural world and aware of ways in which science, mathematics and technology depend upon one another.

The Iditarod School Board expects that students shall come to know that science, mathematics and technology are human enterprises, with strengths and limitations. As part of their science instruction, students should learn how to use scientific knowledge and ways of thinking for individual and social purposes.

A scientific fact is an understanding based on confirmable observations and is subject to test and rejection. A scientific hypothesis is an attempt to frame a question as a testable proposition. A scientific theory organizes and explains a range of natural phenomena on the basis of facts and hypotheses. Scientific theories are constantly subject to testing, modification and refutation as new evidence and new ideas emerge.

From time to time, natural science teachers are asked to teach content that does not meet the criteria of scientific fact, hypothesis and theory as these terms are used in natural sciences and defined in this policy. As a matter of principle, science teachers are professionally bound to limit their teaching to science and should resist pressure to do otherwise.

Philosophical and religious theories are based, at least in part, on faith, and are not subject to scientific test and refutation. Such beliefs shall not be discussed in science classes, but may be addressed in the social science and language arts curricula.

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 04.060 Science Performance Standards

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

COMMUNITY SERVICE

BP 6142.4

The Iditarod School Board desires that all students develop a sense of social responsibility and encourages opportunities for students to perform volunteer duties in the community. The Iditarod School Board believes that volunteer service can help students gain self-esteem, reinforce skills, discover career options and learn the value of volunteer work. Community service motivates students to learn by relating the curriculum to the needs of the community at large.

The Superintendent or designee may develop with staff, parents/guardians and community organizations a community service course which reinforces the curriculum and provides opportunities for student volunteers to meet community needs. The Superintendent or designee may authorize community service credit which may be applied towards high school graduation.

Parents/guardians of student volunteers shall receive information about the community service program and its benefits for both the community and the student.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteers)

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

COMMUNITY SERVICE

AR 6142.4 (a)

Program Description

Community service classes shall acquaint students with the history and importance of volunteer service and with various existing community needs, including needs within the school itself.

Students shall be offered volunteer opportunities which support and strengthen their academic achievement and help them recognize the relevance of what they are learning in school. Such opportunities also may help them to:

1. Develop multicultural relationships within the community.
2. Appreciate the democratic ideal of equal treatment for all citizens.
3. Learn the importance of environmental conservation.
4. Understand the values, goals and quality of life which the community considers important.
5. Develop flexibility in order to realize that changes are necessary throughout life.

Students shall be encouraged to volunteer in areas which interest them personally.

Staff shall provide student volunteers with opportunities to discuss the value of their service experiences with their peers.

Program Supervision

School staff shall regularly visit community agencies to observe student volunteers and help them solve service-related problems.

School staff shall monitor the attendance of students at designated community service sites and shall maintain attendance records.

Grading

Community service classes shall be offered on a "credit/no credit" basis.

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

COMMUNITY SERVICE (continued)

AR 6142.4 (b)

Student Responsibilities

Transportation to the community service site shall be the student's responsibility.

In case of illness, the student shall inform both the community agency and the staff member responsible for monitoring attendance. Students shall be held accountable for attendance in the same manner as that used for the regular school program.

The community agency or district staff may terminate any student's volunteer placement if the student's conduct is unsatisfactory.

Instruction

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

BP 6142.5

The Iditarod School Board recognizes that the schools play a crucial role in educating students on environmental issues and preparing them to be the stewards of their natural resources. The quality of life in future generations will depend upon our students' willingness and ability to solve today's environmental problems and prevent new ones from developing.

The Board desires to foster attitudes of personal responsibility toward the environment and provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to make decisions involving the environment and its resources. Students should understand basic ecological principles and appreciate the interrelated nature of living processes, the effect of human activities on ecological relationships, and the interdependence of humanity and nature.

School and classroom activities should encourage students to recycle, conserve natural resources, use biodegradable materials when possible, and dispose of wastes in an environmentally sound way.

(cf. 6163.4 – School Gardens, Greenhouses, and Farms)

Students may increase their understanding of science and the interdependence of living things through the study of endangered species in local habitats and through participation in projects related to this study.

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATION

BP 6142.6

The Iditarod School Board recognizes that by studying visual and performing arts, students develop critical and creative thinking skills, initiative, discipline and perceptual abilities that extend to all areas of life. The Iditarod School Board believes that a comprehensive arts education program should be an integral part of the basic education offered to all students.

The Iditarod School Board encourages all teachers to enliven and enrich the subjects they teach through use of the arts.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4AAC 04.110 Arts Performance Standards

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

COURSES OF STUDY

BP 6143

Elementary Schools

The Iditarod School Board shall adopt a course of study for elementary grades aligned with state performance and content standards which sufficiently prepares district students for the required high school course of study.

Secondary Schools

The Iditarod School Board shall adopt courses of study designed to meet student needs and to conform with district and state graduation requirements and the requirements for admission to postsecondary schools. Courses of study shall be integrated where appropriate and provide students the opportunity to attain skills appropriate for entry-level employment upon graduation from high school.

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6184 - Virtual/Online Courses)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

05.080 School Curriculum and personnel

4 AAC 06.075 High school graduation requirements

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

BP 6144 (a)

The Iditarod School Board believes that students should have opportunities to discuss controversial issues which have political, social or economic significance and which the students are mature enough to investigate and address. The study of a controversial issue should help students learn how to gather and organize pertinent facts, discriminate between fact and fiction, draw intelligent conclusions, and respect the opinions of others.

The Iditarod School Board expects teachers to exercise caution and discretion when deciding whether or not a particular issue is suitable for study or discussion in any particular class. Instruction that involves controversial issues must be within the district content standards and curriculum. The overriding educational purpose of teaching about controversial issues must be student achievement in the academic subjects and students' civic development, rather than reaching conclusions as to the correctness of any particular point of view. The instruction must reflect due consideration of the maturity of the students, the values of the community, sound professional judgment, and coordination with the administration.

The Iditarod School Board also expects teachers to ensure that all sides of a controversial issue are impartially presented, with adequate and appropriate factual information. Without promoting any partisan point of view, the teacher should help students separate fact from opinion and warn them against drawing conclusions from insufficient data. The teacher shall not suppress any student's view on the issue as long as its expression is not malicious or abusive toward others.

Teachers sponsoring guest speakers shall either ask them not to use their position or influence on students to forward their own religious, political, economic or social views or shall take active steps to neutralize whatever bias has been presented.

In matters related to controversial issues and learning materials, the Superintendent or designee and Iditarod School Board have final authority in deciding whether discussion of a controversial issue follows established professional ethics, content standards, and curriculum, and is appropriate for students.

Legal Reference

- (cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning School Personnel)*
- (cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)*
- (cf. 4119.25 - Political Activities of Employees)*
- (cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*
- (cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)*

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.090 Sectarian or denominational doctrines prohibited

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DATE OF ADOPTION: December 2014**

Instruction

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

AR 6144

Controversial issues may be discussed in the classroom, provided that:

1. The issue is related to the course of study and provides opportunities for critical thinking, for developing tolerance, and for understanding conflicting points of view.
2. The issue has a meaningful relationship to matters of concern to the students.
3. Available information about the issue is sufficient to allow alternative points of view to be discussed and evaluated on a factual basis.
4. All sides of the issue are given a proper hearing, using established facts as primary evidence.
5. The issue has points of view which can be understood and defined by the students.
6. The teacher does not use his/her position to forward his/her own religious, political, economic or social bias. The teacher may express a personal opinion if he/she identifies it as such and does not express the opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view.
7. Discussion or study of the issue is instigated by the students or by the established curriculum, but not by a source outside of the schools.
8. The discussion does not reflect adversely upon persons because of their race, sex, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, handicap or occupation.
9. The oral or written presentation does not violate state or federal law.

The Superintendent or designee shall have the authority to judge whether the above conditions are being met.

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