

Controversial Issues Policy

The School Board supports the discussion of controversial educational topics as long as the parties to the discussion demonstrate civility and respect for one another and are willing to listen to all sides of the issue.

To promote the fair and appropriate consideration of controversial issues in the instructional setting, the following principles have been established.

1. The School Board acknowledges the need to protect employees from censorship or restraint, which might interfere with their professional obligation in the implementation of the approved curriculum that is aligned with the Maine Learning Results.
2. The teacher is trusted to handle controversial issues in accordance with this “policy” and to seek suitable resources and support.
3. Discussion of controversial issues in the classroom should acknowledge there might be more than one opinion.
4. Parents will have the opportunity to review curriculum materials by contacting the classroom teacher.
5. Any student attending SAD # 3 schools has the right upon parental request to be released from instruction that infringes upon his/her beliefs. However, an appropriate alternative educational experience will be required. It is the responsibility of the parent to follow the procedure attached to this policy.
6. The wishes of one child’s parent(s) to restrict their child’s participation will not infringe on the right of other parents to permit their children to participate.

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