

Book	Policy
Section	6000 Instruction
Title	Controversial Issues
Code	6233 Board Policy
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Last Revised	October 23, 2000
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The Discussion of Controversial Issues

The Natrona County Board of Trustees is responsible primarily to the patrons of the District and believes that, within the context of the curricular goals of each school, the study of issues that are controversial is important and may equip students with decision-making skills to resolve problems that beset them and society throughout their lives. Furthermore, it is believed that impartial study and discussion should prevail and that on any given controversial subject balanced and appropriate viewpoints are to be presented in an atmosphere as free as possible from bias and partiality.

A controversial question should be handled in an appropriate setting by an educator prepared for such responsibility. It is also recognized, however, that extreme circumstances may introduce controversial and sensitive issues within the school which used to be addressed in a more immediate fashion than covered in this policy.

Definition

For the purpose of this policy a controversial issue is defined as a question or topic characterized by current importance by which persons are polarized and divided toward one end of the spectrum or the other. A controversial issue may relate to either content and/or format and includes discussions, live or media presentations, individuals, learning resources, or types of activities.

Supplementary Learning Resources - Library/Media Center

The District seeks to provide library materials that would be of the greatest support to its educational objectives for the minor students in the District. The District's libraries do not exist to provide universal coverage but instead to provide materials aimed at its pedagogical goals and for the interest, information, and enlightenment of students. Since school libraries are viewed as places for voluntary inquiry, library materials must be treated differently from primary learning resources materials used in the classroom. This policy provides criteria for the selection of library supplementary learning resources, focused on maximizing transparency with parents and community members while meeting student needs to provide supplemental enrichment in their learning with appropriate materials. This policy provides criteria to allow individual parents the option to access the district library opt-in and opt-out procedures. Administrative regulations will be established for the implementation of this policy, including opt-in procedures.

Definitions

Library learning resource materials - are for independent use by students and faculty outside of the District's primary learning material. While primary learning resources and supplementary learning resources are both considered instructional resources, they are not the same, and the terms shall not be used interchangeably.

Sexually explicit images - Any picture, photograph, drawings, motion picture films, digital image, or similar visual representation depicting the human sexual acts of masturbation, intercourse, or direct physical stimulation of the genitals.

Library Collection - refers to library items for use by school patrons. Library collections may include such items as books, videos, sound recordings, licensed databases, and equipment.

Library Circulation - is the function of lending library materials (books, videos, sound recordings, licensed databases, and equipment).

Avoiding Inappropriate Material

The District recognizes there exists a vast array of materials with age appropriate educational content. It is the District's objective to choose material that provides educational content appropriate to students in the District rather than material that may provide similar content with sexually explicit images.

Opportunity for Parent/Guardian Review

In recognizing that parents/guardians hold an essential role in the education of their student(s) and have the right to guide what their minor student(s) read, each library shall maintain a list of materials onsite or on the school library website that shows what is in circulation for students.

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