

Instruction

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

6144

American public education has fostered, and the Fairfield Public Schools support, a climate of academic freedom that allows students to recognize differences of opinion on important issues. “Controversial issues” are those problems, subjects, or questions about which there are significant differences of opinion based, in part, on the differences in values, which people bring to the appraisal of the facts of the issue. Educators must deal with controversial issues in an open and fair manner. Learning to recognize and understand controversial issues is a basic skill, which all students in the Fairfield Public Schools should acquire. In studying controversial issues, there should be an opportunity for students to gather information about the issue, understand alternative viewpoints, and then, where appropriate, make personal judgments on the issue.

In order for students to develop these analytical skills, teachers in the Fairfield Public Schools shall have the opportunity to help students secure and evaluate information, learn the techniques of critical analysis, and make independent judgments. Students will have the opportunity, where appropriate, to present and support their conclusions before persons who have opposing points of view. Teachers will help students recognize the need for continuous and objective examination of these issues in the light of changing conditions in society and as new evidence becomes available.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
31-51q Liability of employer for discipline or discharge of employee on account of employee’s exercise of certain constitutional rights
Keyishian v. Board of Regents 385 US 589,603 (1967)
Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81)

Adopted 8/27/2004