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Policy No. 2331P  
Instruction

## **CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES/ GUEST SPEAKERS PROCEDURE**

The following procedures will be in effect when guest speakers are being considered for use in the classroom.

When a teacher believes that a guest speaker will contribute to the curriculum by helping to achieve the goals and objectives of the course, the staff member will follow the procedure set out below.

- At least two weeks before the date the speaker will visit, the teacher will notify the principal or principals in writing whom he/she wants to invite, how the speaker's topic will relate to the curriculum, and when the speaker will visit. Any teacher may request a waiver of the two-week notice and any principal may grant such a waiver in order to accommodate the scheduling of a speaker on short notice. However, such a waiver shall be at the sole discretion of the principal, and the previous granting of such waivers shall not obligate any principal to grant a waiver for any future request.
- If the teacher and the principal believe that the guest speaker's topic may be controversial, both parties will proceed with the following course of action to address the controversial issue:
  - The teacher shall notify students and parents/guardians of the students in advance of the speaker's controversial topic/issue.
  - Any student, objecting and not wishing to attend the presentation shall receive alternative school work.
  - Unless the principal approves otherwise, the teacher will not allow non-class members to hear the speaker of a potentially controversial topic. If the principal has reason to believe that the appearance of the guest speaker would not contribute to the curriculum or would be harmful to the students, he/she may deny the appearance of the guest speaker.
  - In the event of a disagreement among principals, or if the teacher wishes to appeal the decision, the Assistant Superintendent will make a final decision.

### **Controversial Issues/Topics through Use of Materials**

When a teacher believes that teaching of controversial issues will contribute to the curriculum by helping to achieve the goals and objectives of the course, the staff member will follow the procedure set out below.

Teachers will:

- Explore all sides and aspects of an issue with educationally appropriate and suitable Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) approved print, electronic and/or media materials.
- Guide discussions with thoroughness and objectivity to acquaint students with the need to recognize opposing viewpoints, the importance of fact, the value of judgment and the virtue of respect for conflicting opinions.

- If the teacher believes that materials outside of the IMC approved materials would contribute to the course and its goals and these materials may be considered controversial in nature due to ratings (PG-13 or R) or topics, the teacher shall notify the school principal in writing and request approval to use such materials in the classroom.
  - If the principal grants approval to use these materials, the teacher shall notify students and parents/guardians of the students in advance of the controversial nature of the materials and/or topic.
  - Any student or parent/guardian objecting and not wishing to read, watch, and/or be a part of the use of these materials shall receive alternative school work.

If the principal has reason to believe that the use of the controversial materials or topics would not contribute to the course and its goals or would be harmful to the students, he/she may deny the use of said materials. If the teacher wishes to appeal the principal's decision, the Assistant Superintendent will make the final decision.

Adoption Date: 6/10/21

Classification: **Discretionary**

Revised Dates: ;