

<p>TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT</p> <p>GOVERNING BOARD POLICY</p>	<p>POLICY TITLE:</p> <p>Academic Freedom</p>
	<p>POLICY CODE: IB</p>

Purpose A professional staff seeks to educate people in the democratic tradition, to foster recognition of individual freedom and social responsibility, to inspire meaningful awareness of and respect for the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and to instill appreciation of each individual's values.

These democratic values can be transmitted best in an atmosphere free from censorship and artificial restraints on free inquiry and learning.

Academic Freedom Educators must be free to think and to express ideas, free to select and employ materials and methods of instruction, free from undue pressures of authority, and free to act within their own professional groups. Such freedom should be used judiciously and prudently to the end that it promotes the free exercise of intelligence and student learning. Freedom of speech must be exercised within the context of the basic ethical responsibilities of the profession. Those responsibilities include

- A. A commitment to democratic tradition and its methods.
- B. A concern for the welfare, growth, and development of children.
- C. An awareness of the method of scholarship.
- D. An application of good taste and judgment in selecting and employing materials and methods of instruction.
- E. An awareness of the needs and sensitivities of a diverse community.
- F. The obligation to teach state standards.

Academic freedom shall be guaranteed to instructional staff within Tucson Unified's instructional program and no limitation will be placed upon the study and investigation of facts and ideas except where contrary to statute or Board Policy. See Policy IMB and Policy KB.

Guidelines

Within the confines of state law, Board policy gives teachers the opportunity to create in the classroom an atmosphere of freedom. This atmosphere permits students to raise questions dealing with critical issues of the time.

An atmosphere of freedom produces an environment conducive to the study, investigation, presentation, and interpretation of facts.

The teacher is responsible for exercising good judgment in selecting issues for discussion of value to the students involved.

These issues selected for discussion must have demonstrated relevance in some significant way to the course of study that the instructor is to be addressing.

These issues must be presented in a manner that is appropriate to the maturity level of the students.

Instructional staff shall at all times strive to promote tolerance for the views and opinions of others and for the right of individuals to form and hold differing views and opinions.

ADOPTED: _____

CROSS REF:

IMB – Teaching Controversial/Sensitive Issues
KB – Parental Involvement in Education