

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

- I. The Board of Education believes that the consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the schools. Consideration of such issues can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions.
- II. For purposes of this policy, a controversial issue is a topic on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion and/or likely to arouse both support and opposition in the community.
- III. The Board will permit the introduction and proper educational use of controversial issues provided that the use in the instructional program:
 - A. is related to the instructional goals of the course of study and is appropriate for the maturity level of the students;
 - B. does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view;
 - C. encourages open-mindedness and is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry.
- IV. In the discussion of any issue, teachers may express personal opinions, and must identify these as such, and must not express such opinions for the purpose of persuading students to the teacher's point of view.

Legal Reference:
Sections 118.001, 120.13 Wis. Stats.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 2210 – Curriculum Development
Board Policy 2241 – Waiver of Participation in Approved Curricular Programs
Board Policy 2260 – Access to Equal Educational Opportunities
Board Policy 2416.1 – Protected Student Information
Board Policy 2521 – Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment
Board Policy 2521.01 – Library/Media Materials
Board Policy 9130 – Public Complaints

Adopted: 6/18/01
Revised: 9/11/06; 1/10/11; 3/12/15

The Port Washington-Saukville School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Special Services, Port Washington-Saukville School District, 100 W. Monroe Street, Port Washington, WI 53074 - Duane.Woelfel@pwssd.k12.wi.us