



## **Instruction - Series 2000**

### **Controversial Issues – 2331**

A controversial issue is defined as any problem or subject, which has varying viewpoints in our society or school. A major role of the school is to guide students in thinking critically and creatively in problem definition and solution. Unless the approved curriculum provides for it, controversial issues are normally not introduced into or allowed to be presented in the elementary school environment. As the age and maturity of students increase at the secondary level, students exposure to controversial issues increases. These may be issues involving comparative religion, political theories or viewpoints, or current social issues affecting our society. In the school setting, controversial issues should not create or contribute to a hostile harassing educational environment. Such an environment may be created by introducing or allowing gender, sex, sexual preference, ethnicity, race, or disability issues to be presented in a demeaning manner.

#### **Guidelines:**

Controversial issues studied and discussed in Peninsula Public Schools should be,

- Appropriate to the conceptual development of the students;
- Appropriate to the subject and curriculum;
- Allocated sufficient time for evaluation;
- Supported with information, which yields data from which students formulate definitions and solutions.

#### **Cross References:**

<u>Board Policy 2340</u>	Religious Related Activities and Practices
<u>Board Policy 3205</u>	Safety and Civility in Schools
<u>Board Policy 3206</u>	Social and Emotional Competence
<u>Board Policy 3210</u>	Nondiscrimination
<u>Board Policy 3220</u>	Freedom of Expression
<u>Board Policy 3240</u>	Student Conduct

#### **Legal Reference:**

RCW 28A.405.030 Must teach morality and patriotism

Adopted: 10-26-2000