

TITLE: INSTRUCTION / CONTROVERSIAL

1. General Policy. Local, state, national and international issues of a controversial nature which are relevant to state learning outcomes and county programs of studies are appropriate for classroom presentation in a factual, unbiased manner.
2. Selection of Issues or Subjects. Classroom teachers may select controversial issues or subjects for presentation taking into account: relevancy to state learning outcomes or county programs of studies; the maturity of the students; the knowledge of the students; the interest of the students; the adequacy and availability of materials or personnel; the time available for satisfactory study; and, the customs and attitudes of the community.
3. Unbiased Presentation. Any presentation of a controversial issue must be calculated: to permit the free exchange of ideas; to present facts objectively and impartially; and, to stimulate discussion that promotes an understanding of all points of view. In the context of classroom presentations classroom teachers shall avoid the indoctrination of personal philosophy. Moreover, a classroom teacher's expression of beliefs and opinions must be identified as being his or her own.
4. Complaints. Complaints which assert a violation of this policy may be pursued through either the Citizens Complaint procedure set forth in County Board of Education Policy 7020 or West Virginia State Board of Education Policy 7211.
5. Review Schedule. This policy shall be reviewed in accordance with the Policy Review Schedule published by the Superintendent.

Legal Authority: West Virginia Board of Education Policy 4373

Board Adoption: July 21, 2014