

311 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The Board endorses the principle of academic and professional freedom. Controversial issues should be a part of instructional programs when judgment of the professional staff deems the issues appropriate to the curriculum and to the maturity level of the student. Academic freedom is the right of the learner and his/her teacher to explore, present and discuss divergent points of view in the quest for knowledge and truth.

Academic freedom is not an absolute. It must be exercised within the basic ethical responsibilities of the teaching profession. Those responsibilities include:

1. a commitment to democratic tradition and its methods;
2. a concern for the welfare, growth, and development of children;
3. the method of scholarship; (learning, instruction)
4. application of good taste and judgment in selecting and employing materials and methods of instruction; and
5. reasonable adherence to the established curriculum.

CROSS REF.: 385, Teaching about Controversial Issues
386, Teaching about Religion

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