

Protocols for Non Biased Curriculum Creation

- Domain Four of the Teacher Evaluation Rubric: Professional Responsibilities and Teacher Leadership- upheld through the teacher evaluation process and walkthroughs
 - Indicator 4B: Consistently exhibits professional responsibility and ethical practices in accordance with the Connecticut Code of Professional Responsibility for Teachers

- Connecticut Code of Professional Responsibility for Teachers

Responsibility to the Student

- Engage students in the pursuit of truth, knowledge and wisdom and provide access to all points of view without deliberate distortion of subject matter

Responsibility to the Profession

- Conduct himself or herself as a professional realizing that his or her action reflects directly upon the status and substance of the profession
- Uphold the professional teacher's right to teach effectively
- Strive to exercise the highest level of professional judgment

Responsibility to the Community

- Be cognizant of the influence of teachers upon the community-at-large, and, therefore, shall not knowingly misrepresent facts or make false statements

- 1311.2 Board Regulation
 - Employees shall not poll students on the political opinions of their parents and shall not attempt to indoctrinate students or other employees with their personal political views. Student mock elections are permitted when conducted as part of the educational program.
- 6144
 - The District shall address controversial topics in an impartial and objective manner. Teachers shall not use the classroom to transmit personal beliefs regarding political or sectarian issues. Students and educators shall ensure that, to the extent possible, discussions are conducted fairly and courteously.
 - A teacher selecting topics for discussion in the classroom shall be adequately informed about the issue and capable of providing instruction on the subject, free from personal bias. In addition, the teacher shall be certain that:
 1. The issue in question is within the range, knowledge, maturity, and comprehension of the students.
 2. The issue is current and educationally significant.
 3. The consideration of the issue does not interfere with required instruction.
 4. Sufficient relevant information on all aspects of the issue is provided.
 - If a teacher is unsure about a topic of discussion or about the methods to employ, the teacher may discuss the issue with the Principal.
 - In guiding classroom discussion of controversial issues, teachers shall:

- 1. Foster students' critical thinking skills.
 - 2. Encourage discussion based on rational analysis.
 - 3. Create an atmosphere in which students learn to respect others' opinions and disagree courteously.
 - 4. Ensure that multiple viewpoints about the issue are presented by introducing an unexpressed viewpoint when necessary.
 - 5. Avoid any attempt to coerce or persuade students to adopt the teacher's point of view.
 - All District employees are privileged within the limitations imposed by state and federal laws and regulations to choose any side of a particular political issue and to support their viewpoints as they desire by vote, discussion or persuading others. Such discussion and persuasion, however, will not be carried on during the performance of District duties, except in open discussion during classroom lessons that consider various candidates for a particular office or various sides of a particular political or civil issue.
- 6161.12 A Policy on Academic Freedom and Public Education
 - Since teaching and learning are among the missions of our public schools, the STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION affirms the distinction between teaching and indoctrination. Schools should teach students how to think, not what to think. To study an idea is not necessarily to endorse an idea. Public school classrooms are forums for inquiry, not arenas for the promulgation of particular viewpoints. While communities have the right to exercise supervision over their own public school practices and programs, their participation in the educational life of their schools should respect the constitutional and intellectual rights guaranteed school personnel and students by American law and tradition.