

CLASSIFICATION: Certificated Personnel**ADOPTED: 6/14/95****REVISED:****SUBJECT: Academic Freedom****PAGE: 1 of 2**

The County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools believe that the existence and progress of a democratic society demands that there be freedom of teaching the approved curriculum and freedom of learning in schools. The County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools accept as one of their major responsibilities the protection of these freedoms for students, teachers, and others directly concerned with the programs operated by the County Superintendent of Schools.

The County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools have the responsibility to ensure that the programs of the County Superintendent of Schools fulfill their obligation to society at the local, state, and national levels. The obligation in behalf of academic freedom requires cooperation with educational personnel and with the community in a judicious and open-minded manner in policies and decisions for the preservation of that freedom.

The proper role of the County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools requires providing all possible support within the law to the teachers, management personnel, and other staff members who are making use of their abilities and resources to maintain a climate of academic freedom, without license, in the programs of the County Superintendent of Schools.

Successful action in matters of academic freedom depends greatly on the ability of the County Board of Education, the County Superintendent of Schools, and management staff to see the true relationship between the total objectives of the educational program and the values of academic freedom. Under these criteria it should be possible to maintain a practical and defensible balance in this relationship.

CRITERIA

Basis for judgment in matters pertaining to academic freedom shall be:

1. The welfare of students, individually and collectively, in the present and for the future.
2. The intellectual level of the students.
3. The standards and beliefs of citizens of the community.

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4. The security and dignity of teachers, management personnel, and other employees.
5. The status of the problem or issue within the framework of law.
6. In the case of instructional materials, the informative, literary, and general cultural values which may assist students in intellectual growth and habits of critical thought.
7. Informed opinion in policy statements regarding academic freedom available from organizations of teachers, management personnel, parents/guardians, County Board of Education members, the County Superintendent of Schools, and other citizens with special interest in public education.