

Personnel - Certified

Academic Freedom

Teachers shall be free to discuss controversial ideas and to select and employ materials and methods of instruction aligned with the Orange Board of Education curriculum. Such freedoms should be used judiciously and prudently to promote the free exercise of intelligence and learning.

However, academic freedom is not an absolute; it must be exercised within the law and the basic ethical responsibilities of the teaching profession. Those responsibilities include:

1. an understanding of our democratic tradition and its methods;
2. a concern for the welfare, growth, maturity, and development of children;
3. appropriate presentation of appropriate material for children's intellectual and emotional development;
4. Application of good taste and judgment in selecting and employing materials and methods of instruction.

Political Activities

The Board of Education encourages its employees to assume the obligations of full political citizenship. However, school employees are to confine their political activities to the hours away from school. Employees will not be released without leave to participate in political activities.

Employees shall not use school equipment or materials, classrooms, buildings or students for the purpose of solicitation, promotion, election or defeat of any candidate for public office, or for any issue coming to a public vote.

Employees may not represent themselves as political spokespersons for any school, program, or other activity sponsored by the Orange Board of Education.

Elected officials may be brought into the classroom, as a part of regular instruction, to speak to students with permission of the building principal and/or superintendent.

(cf. 1220 Citizens' Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1312 Public Complaints)

(cf. 5145.2 Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6144 Controversial Issues)

(cf. 6161 Equipment/Books/Materials: Provision/Selection)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

53a-193 through 53a-200

(1967) *Keyishian v. Board of Regents*, 395 U.S. 589, 603

Perry v. Sindermann, 408 U.S. 593 (1972)

(1968) *Pickering v. Board of Education*, 391 U.S. 563

Sterzing v. Fort Bend Independent School District,
376F. Supp. 657 (S.D. Tex 1972)

Grayned v. City of Rockford, 408 U.S. 104 (1972)

Miller v. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973)

Amendment to U.S. Constitution, Article I

Connecticut Constitution, ARTICLE FIRST,
Declaration of Rights, Sections 4, 5

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut
State Board of Education, 9/8/81)