

**POWAY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD POLICY**

Originator: Area Superintendent

Issue No: 2

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ARTICLE: 3.0 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Reference:

**SECTION 3.11 CHALLENGE OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND TEACHING
CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

The Board of Education invites community involvement in the educational program of the District. The Superintendent is authorized to prepare and implement procedures to handle concerns which may arise due to the many different and possibly conflicting opinions of members of the community.

Controversial Issues

The Governing Board believes that students should have opportunities to discuss controversial issues which have political, social, or economic significance, and which the students are mature enough to investigate and address. The study of a controversial issue should help students learn how to gather and organize pertinent facts, discriminate between fact and fiction, draw intelligent conclusions, and respect the opinions of others.

The Board requires teachers to exercise caution and discretion when deciding whether or not a particular issue is suitable for study or discussion in any particular class. Teachers should not spend time on any topic which they feel is not suitable for the class or related to the established course of study.

The Board also requires teachers to ensure that all sides of a controversial issue are impartially presented with adequate and appropriate factual information. Without promoting any partisan point of view, the teacher should help students separate fact from opinion and warn them against drawing conclusions from insufficient data. The teacher shall not suppress any student's view on the issue as long as its expression is not malicious or abusive toward others.

Teachers sponsoring guest speakers shall either ask them not to use their position or influence on students to forward their own religious, political, economic, or social views, or shall take active steps to neutralize whatever bias has been presented.