

Policy Guide

Policy No. 119

Section PROGRAMS

Title SOCIAL ISSUES

Adopted AUGUST 21, 1989

Revised FEBRUARY 16, 1998

POLICY NO. 119 SOCIAL ISSUES		
1. Purpose	<p>The Board believes that the consideration of social issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the schools.</p> <p>Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such events can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions.</p>	
2. Definition	<p>For purposes of this policy, a current event is a topic not expressly enumerated in the course guide as appropriate for the course of study.</p>	
3. Authority	<p>The Board will permit the introduction and proper educational use of social issues provided that their use in the instructional program is related to the instructional goals of the course of study and level of maturity of the students, does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view, encourages fair presentation and open-mindedness, is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry and is not related to the employment status of the teacher and/or other employees of the District.</p>	

POLICY NO. 119 - SOCIAL ISSUES

When social issues have not been specified in the course guide, the Board will only permit the instructional use of those issues which have been approved by the principal.

The Board recognizes that some deviation from the assigned course guide is necessary in the free exchange of the classroom. However, the Board specifies for the guidance of the Superintendent and, through administrative directive, the guidance of the staff that any discussion of social issues in the classroom shall be conducted in an unprejudiced and dispassionate manner and shall not disrupt the educational process or fail to match the maturity level of students.

In the discussion of any event, a teacher may express a personal opinion, but shall identify it as such, and must not express such an opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view.

4. Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent shall assist teaching staff members in developing techniques for the management of social issues which do not stifle a spirit of free inquiry.