

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Academic freedom is the right of a teacher to be free from unreasonable restraints in research, publication and classroom discussion. The student has the right to learn and to have access to all points of view; but these rights are not without limitation.

Both the teacher and student have a responsibility to abide by the School Committee Policies and Administrative Regulations and to comply with the requirements of the law of the land.

It is recognized that the application of the principle of academic freedom may result in controversial issues. Such situations occur in matters of interest in which there is no agreement approaching unanimity among students, teachers and community.

In the presentation of controversial issues, the teacher has the following responsibilities:

1. To provide a learning atmosphere which presents divergent points of view;
2. To be objective and impartial;
3. To present materials which are relevant to the subject area; and
4. To discuss issues which are appropriate to the students' level of ability and maturity.

LEGAL REFS: Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Adoption: September 19, 2016

First reading 2016 revision: June 6, 2016

Second reading: June 20, 2016

Third reading/adoption: September 19, 2016

Proposed reconsideration: September 2021

Hull Public Schools