

Instruction

Teaching About Controversial Issues

For Joint Agreement students attending special education programs in the administrative district's schools, instruction on controversial issues will be based upon the administrative district's policies.

For SELA Students:

The Director shall ensure that all school-sponsored presentations and discussions of controversial or sensitive topics in the instructional program, including those made by guest speakers, are:

- Age-appropriate. Proper decorum, considering the students' ages, should be followed.
- Consistent with the curriculum and serve an educational purpose.
- Informative and present a balanced view.
- Respectful of the rights and opinions of everyone. Emotional criticisms and hurtful sarcasm should be avoided.
- Not tolerant of profanity or slander.

The Joint Agreement specifically reserves its right to stop any school-sponsored activity that it determines violates this policy, is harmful to the Joint Agreement or the students, or violates State or federal law.

LEGAL REF.: Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006)

Mayor v. Monroe Cnty. Cmty. Sch. Corp., 474 F.3d 477 (7th Cir. 2007)

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:255 (Assemblies and Ceremonies)

ADOPTED: September 18, 2025