

Downey Unified School District

INSTRUCTION

PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM

AR 3127

The Board of Education and the certificated employees of the District seek to educate students in the democratic tradition and to develop each student as a complete person in respect to his/her functioning within that democratic society. The Board of Education is responsible for providing an atmosphere for free discussion in which these democratic values can be transmitted and protected as provided in District policies.

Freedom of Expression

The Board of Education encourages freedom of individual expression through the presentation of ideas, discussions of issues, and the expressing of opinions which incorporate more than one view or theory on any subject pertinent to the approved curriculum.

Professional Staff Advice

The advice of the professional staff shall be solicited prior to determining the content of the curriculum and the selection of media and materials for adoption by the Board of Education. Instructional activities shall not include anything which is obscene, libelous, or contrary to the provisions of the Education Code, Title 5 of the California Administrative Code, or policies and rules and regulations of the Board of Education. At any time any curriculum content, media, or instructional materials may be subject to review by the Board of Education as provided in District policies.

Controversial Speakers

The certificated teaching staff and administration of each school shall agree upon a procedure for obtaining District approval to utilize controversial out-of-school speakers. Said procedures and speakers shall be subject to the approval of the Superintendent as provided by law.

Grades

Grades given a student by a teacher shall be final and not subject to alteration except as provided in the Education Code. If a grade is changed the teacher must be informed in writing with the reasons for the change.

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Listening Devices

Prior consent of the teacher shall be secured before mechanical or electronic devices can be utilized to monitor classroom instructional procedures or any other professional exchanges between staff on District sites.

Professional Organization Identification

No certificated employee shall be prevented from wearing pins or other identification of membership in a District-recognized organization or its state or national affiliate.

Full Rights of Citizenship

The Board of Education recognizes that teachers have those constitutional rights accorded to all citizens. The personal life of a certificated employee, including religious and political activities, shall not be of concern providing that these activities do not prevent the employee from properly and effectively performing his/her assigned duties and do not violate local, state, or federal law.

Approved: 9/15/75