

Article 13

Academic Freedom

A. Member Rights and Responsibilities

The Board and the Association agree that it is a unit member's right and responsibility to study, investigate, present, interpret and discuss all relevant facts and ideas in the field of their professional competence. As a professional, the unit member strives to maintain a spirit of free inquiry, open-mindedness, and impartiality in their classroom, and to ensure that learning activities do not adversely reflect upon any individual or group because of race, creed, sex, gender, or ethnicity.

The District shall include unit members in the development of curriculum and the recommendation for the selection of teaching materials. Supplemental materials and instructional methodology may be used by unit members in accordance with District policy and building procedures.

Within state adopted content standards, and in line with district policy, professional educators may determine the supporting materials and methods used for day to day instruction.

~~Educators must be free to select and employ materials and methods without undue pressure from building and District administrators.~~

B. Personal and Academic Freedom Committee

Controversial issues that are related to the curriculum may be addressed in a manner that is appropriate to the maturity and intellectual/emotional capacities of the students. In the event a unit member contemplates presenting an issue which they recognize as particularly controversial by the standards of the Reynolds patrons, they will submit the question to the "Personal and Academic Freedom Committee" (PAFC). The PAFC will be composed of two (2) unit members appointed by the Association, two (2) administrators appointed by the Superintendent, and two (2) parents appointed by the Board. The PAFC will rule on the acceptability of the issue for the level to which it is to be presented in the light of community standards and the academic rights expressed in this Article. If the unit member

disagrees with the decision reached by the PAFC, they may appeal the decision to the Superintendent for a ruling.

This is not intended in any way to abridge the right of the Board to set limits where it deems necessary.