

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The Board supports academic freedom for students and teachers. Academic freedom includes the right of students to freely learn and reach their own decisions and beliefs about conflicting points of view and to acquire the skills necessary to arrive at these independent conclusions. Academic freedom also encompasses the right of teachers in its many forms. Academic freedom allows and encourages licensed employees and students the opportunity to study, investigate, present, interpret, and discuss facts and ideas relevant to the classroom subject matter. Nonetheless, the facts and ideas must be in accordance with the maturity and intellectual and emotional capacities of the students. Academic freedom does not allow teachers to deviate from the required curriculum or from the use of required curriculum and instructional guides.

The principal, as the instructional leader of the school, is responsible for encouraging academic freedom as a means for students and teachers to be actively engaged in the learning process. The principal also is responsible for ensuring that academic freedom is not abused. Academic freedom may be defined as the right of qualified scholars in their own field of expertise to pursue the search for truth in its many forms. It is the right of a responsible teacher to encourage freedom of discussion of controversial questions in the classroom and to develop in students a love of knowledge and a desire to search for truth. Academic freedom is a necessary condition for the successful practice of the academic profession in a free society.