

Instruction

SUBJECT: ACADEMIC FREEDOM/TEACHER SELECTION OF AND/OR TEACHER SUPPLIED INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Port Jervis City School District Board of Education recognizes the right of the teacher to provide information that will enrich and support the curriculum while, at the same time, taking into consideration the needs of the individual student, especially as it regards the diversity of learning styles, varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of students. Classroom discussion and/or selection of supplemental instructional materials by the teacher must be of educational merit, reflect the appropriate curriculum and/or course of study, and reflect the diverse needs of the students served.

Further, the Board of Education believes that such academic freedom also carries with it educational responsibility that is determined by the basic ideals, goals, and policies of the Port Jervis City School District. While the Board is opposed to unrestricted censorship or restraint that interferes with the educational responsibility of the classroom teachers, the Board also expects that controversial issues will be presented in a fair and unbiased manner, without undue pressure or coercion by the classroom teacher to impose his/her opinion on the students.

As a consequence of board responsibility to guarantee academic freedom to both students and teachers, and as befits their professional status, teachers are encouraged to provide appropriate supplementary instructional materials for classroom use in addition to district-provided materials in accordance with administrative regulations.

Use of Video Tapes/Films in Classroom Instruction:

Teachers who wish to use video tapes and/or films in classroom instruction must follow established administrative regulations for the school. Additionally, teachers who wish to utilize such copyrighted video tapes and/or films in their classroom must not use such purchased or rented visual technology resources marked "For Home Use Only." Teachers are authorized to use for classroom instruction, and are responsible for securing, those films, videos, and other visual technology resources which are designated for public performance, or for which permission for public performance has been obtained. When such resources are not selected from designated curriculum guides utilized by the school, prior to such use, the materials must be reviewed by the building media specialist and the teachers must request permission from their building principal or his/her designee, to use such materials in the classroom.

Implementation:

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to develop administrative regulations to implement the terms of this policy. Further, the District shall ensure that its administrative/instructional personnel shall be aware of District policy and regulations pertaining to this topic.

Education Law Sections 1709(3)

Adopted: 3/18/03