

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Category: O

See Also: Policies GBI & IMC

“Academic freedom” is the opportunity of educators and students to study, investigate, present, interpret, and discuss facts and ideas relevant to the curriculum and course being taught, giving consideration to the maturity level of the students.

Teachers should be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for the opinions of others, and at all times comply with Board policy GBI regarding staff political activities and speech.

In no event may a teacher instruct, advocate or train that one identified group (a group based upon: age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion or national origin) is:

1. Inherently superior or inferior to people of another identified group;
2. Inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;
3. Should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment; or
4. Should not treat members of other identified groups equally.

Nothing in this policy should be construed to prohibit the (i) teaching of historical subjects, including for instance, discrimination, (ii) discussions related to current events, or (iii) efforts to promote equity and/or inclusion.

Legal References:

RSA 193:40, Prohibition on Teaching Discrimination

“Frequently Asked Questions: New discriminatory practice prohibitions applicable to k-12 educational programs”; N.H. Dept. of Educ., Comm’n for Human Rights, and Dept. of Justice, July 21, 2021

SAU 7 School Board: Adopted – November 10, 2021