

POLICY

PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM
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Controversial Issues

2240 CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Free discussion of controversial issues; political, economic, and social, may be conducted in the classroom wherever appropriate for the level of the group with the permission of the Building Principal.

Issues may be considered controversial which arouse strong reaction, based either on personal conviction or allegiance to a group. School treatment of controversial issues shall be designed to instruct students in fair and objective study techniques. It is essential that pupils be taught to distinguish fact from opinion, proof from allegation and logical substance from assertion.

The decision on whether a particular controversial issue shall become a matter for school study shall be based on the timeliness of the question, the maturity and needs of the students and the goal and objectives of the district. The handling of discussions on controversial questions which arise unexpectedly shall be the responsibility of the teacher, and shall be free from the assumption that there is one correct answer which should emerge from a discussion.

The Principal shall have authority to decide whether a particular topic that arises in a single classroom shall be given continued attention.

Adopted: 31 October 2002

