

**WEST LINN-WILSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD POLICY**

Current File Code: IB
Date Policy Reviewed & Re-adopted: 9-10-07

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Academic freedom is essential as teachers seek to educate students in a democratic society, to foster recognition of individual freedom and responsibility, to inspire meaningful awareness of and respect for the Constitution and the Bill of rights, and to instill appreciation of each individual's rights and values. These democratic values can best be taught in an atmosphere free from censorship or artificial restraints on free inquiry and learning.

Teachers in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District will be protected from censorship or artificial restraints which unreasonably interfere with the teacher's obligation to present and discuss controversial issues and to help encourage students to offer their views on such issues and subjects. Such an atmosphere of freedom produces a situation conducive to the study, investigation, presentation, and interpretation of facts. A teacher should show objectivity so that all sides of an issue are presented. The teacher is responsible for exercising good judgment in the selection of issues to be discussed and should be well informed in the areas to be studied.

END OF POLICY