

**Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Policy**

**Series 7000 – Instruction**

**Policy #7220 – CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES AND OBJECTIONS TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

Controversial issues may be studied as part of the curriculum and teachers shall present these issues in their classrooms in an impartial and objective manner. Instructional materials, textbooks, BOCES regional library collection and regional union catalog collection will include items that are controversial, whether in print or digitally.

Any such study of controversial issues should be provided at a level appropriate to the student's readiness, under competent instructors and in an atmosphere where the student may express beliefs and form opinions without fear of jeopardy or reprisals. Balanced instructional materials pertinent to such controversial issues and appropriate to the level of the student(s) should be accessible to the student in order to assure opportunity to examine all sides of an issue.

Teachers wishing to call upon outside speakers in the presentation of controversial issues are required to obtain the approval of the principal/program administrator who shall keep in mind the obligation for presenting opposing views as well, and who shall inform the District Superintendent prior to the presentation.

Parents/legal guardians and community members have a right to object to perceived unfair and prejudiced presentations made by a teacher.

Parents/legal guardians and community members have a right to object to instructional materials and controversial issues, or to what they perceive to be unfair and prejudiced presentations made by teacher(s). A parent/legal guardian or community member may make an objection following the process as outlined in the regulation to this policy.

Staff who object to the use of instructional materials/textbooks, should follow the same process as community members but are encouraged to speak with their Program Administrator first.

Adopted: 7/13/1999

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