

# INSTRUCTION

File: INB

## TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

The Charlottesville City School Board recognizes that preparation for effective citizenship is one of the major purposes of education. The preparation for effective citizenship includes the study of issues that are controversial. Such study will be carried out in an atmosphere free from bias, prejudice, or coercion.

The Superintendent will establish a committee, as needed, to approve the inclusion of issues that may be considered controversial and determine the methods or strategies of the material being taught to students. Following the approval of any topics, the students can be granted access to all relevant information

In teaching about controversial issues, teachers are expected to

- establish a learning environment where each student can study and research the issues, within a curriculum that is appropriate to his or her knowledge and maturity; and
- provide instruction in a neutral manner in an atmosphere that is free from bias, prejudice, or coercion.

Although the instructional program includes study of the political party system in the United States, the School Board does not endorse a political party or candidate.

Adopted: July 16, 1998  
Revised: November 2, 2000  
Reviewed: April 17, 2008  
Revised: July 5, 2012

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Legal References: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, section 22.1-78.

Cross Reference: KF Distribution of Information Materials