



Teaching Controversial Issues Policy

The Health Leadership High School (Health) recognizes the role of public education in preparing students for effective citizenship. Health also recognizes that as students prepare for effective citizenship, they often encounter issues that may be considered controversial.

Purpose.

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the teaching of controversial issues at Health.

Definitions.

“Controversial Issue” for the purpose of this Policy means a point or matter about which there exist significant opposing viewpoints and/or multiple perspectives.

“Curriculum” for the purposes of this Policy means the prescribed elements of programs and courses which state clearly and specifically what students are to know and be able to do, how well they will be able to do it, how they will meet the learning objectives, and by what means they will be assessed.

Standards.

A controversial issue may be considered as part of the Curriculum when the following conditions are met:

- The issue has political, economic, or social significance and is presented within appropriate curricular guidelines;
- Students are provided access to relevant and credible information pertaining to the issue under study;
- The issue is presented in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice;
- Students are able to form and express their own opinions on the issue without jeopardizing their relationship with teachers or the school; and
- Controversial issues are presented in an impartial and objective manner.

Compliance.

Teachers are responsible for ensuring that information from all views on a controversial issue is presented in an appropriate manner. Any complaints alleging a violation of this Policy are to be filed with the School’s Executive Director.

