



Administrative Procedures

AP-615	Date of implementation: Fall 2019
	Date of update:
	Related Administrative Procedures: AP-608 Family Life and Sex Education
CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES	

Purpose: To help schools and stakeholders recognize and navigate situations that arise around controversial topics of study.

Background: Instructional programs authorized and approved by the Division are to develop students' capacities to think clearly, reason logically, and examine all issues, for reaching sound judgments. Some areas where controversial issues may arise within the instructional programs are related to gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ethnic origin, ancestry, culture, socio-economic status, religion, family status, mental and physical disability, and/or forms of stereotyping. The foregoing is not an all-inclusive list.

The Division is prepared to receive written representations, accompanied by oral explanations if desired, from any individual regarding controversial issues to be studied, materials to be used or the manner in which controversial issues are studied in the classroom. Thereafter, the Division reserves the right to render those decisions which are delegated to the School Division by legislation.

Procedures:

- 1) The principal, under the general supervision of the Director of Education or designate, shall be responsible for ensuring that controversial issues addressed within the instructional program are part of the course of studies authorized by the Ministry and approved by the School Division.
- 2) No person shall be ridiculed or embarrassed for positions which they hold on any issue. Teachers and students must be sensitive to the views and rights of others.
- 3) The principal, upon receiving a written request from a parent or guardian, may excuse a student from participation in instruction dealing with a controversial matter that is contrary to the conscientiously held beliefs of the family. Whenever possible, the teacher will provide students excused from regular classes or content with alternate material.
- 4) Except in areas where specific direction has been provided by the Board, discussion of any controversial issues must represent alternative points of view.
- 5) Controversial issues being discussed must reflect the requirements of the authorized program of studies and be appropriate to the maturity level, capability and educational needs of the student.
- 6) Learning resources such as texts, audio-visual materials, on-line resources, models or other printed material are to be recommended or authorized by the Ministry and/or the School Division.

References:

[*The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2018*](#)

[*Government of Canada: Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*](#)

[*The Education Act, 1995, Section 85, 175, 176, 182, 184*](#)