



AP 2-25 Guest Speakers

Related Policies: PL 3 - 03.1.0 - Teaching About Controversial Issues PL 3 - 06.1.0 - Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments	Initial Approval: 2023 November 28
Related Procedures: AP 3 - 26 - Welcoming, Caring Respectful, Safe and Inclusive Schools	Last Amended:
Exhibits:	Last Reviewed:

PURPOSE

The Division acknowledges the importance of informing parents of the curriculum content for the educational program in which their child is enrolled. In particular, the importance of notification to parents where guest speakers will be speaking about a potentially controversial topic.

This does not apply to incidental or indirect references to a controversial issue in a course of a guest speaker's address. Controversial issues need to be treated with sensitivity and fairness in the Division.

The Division desires to make parents aware of potentially controversial topics that their child might be learning about in advance to ensure they are informed in advance and given an opportunity to seek more clarity or to withdraw their child from a particular learning opportunity if they feel it is in the best interest of their child.

SCOPE

This procedure applies to all staff.

PROCEDURES

1. Guest speaker topics shall appropriately reflect the maturity, capabilities and educational needs of students as stated in the Program of Studies or a school / division goal.
2. All guest speakers in school must be pre approved by the school principal.
3. Prior to approving a guest speaker the principal shall:
 - a. Preview the topic and information to be shared to ensure it aligns with the Program of Studies a school / Division goal or a stated policy or administrative procedure directive.
 - b. Get references from other schools that guest speaker has presented at
4. Guest speakers who will be addressing potentially controversial issues will be discussed with the Superintendent or designate prior to approval.
5. Presentations by guest speakers shall be sensitive to the community in which the school is located, but not to the exclusion of provincially, nationally and internationally accepted principles.
6. If a guest speaker's topic contains information or opinions that are thought to diverge from those held by a number of people in the local community, parents shall be made aware in advance of their speaker, and shall have the right to withhold a student from participation. Also, an effort shall be made to seek speakers to discuss alternative points of view on an issue.
7. If parents opt to withhold a student from participation, alternative learning opportunities will be provided for the student.
8. When considering the cost of the speaker, consideration should be given to an alternative way of accomplishing the desired outcome that is more cost effective.

REFERENCE AND LINKS

HISTORY

2023 Nov 28 Approved