

BOARD POLICY

Methods of Instruction - Sensitivity Training

Teachers are to use methods of instruction that will motivate students, be effective in the learning process, be appropriate to the specific learning task, and be in keeping with the highest standards of the teaching profession.

While the district encourages creative teaching, it also recognizes the need for cautioning teachers not to engage in instructional activities which are inappropriate to the intellectual and emotional maturity of the students; which require highly specialized training, if not licensing, in other professional fields; and which are not in keeping with the educational philosophy of the district.

Sensitivity training may be defined in many ways. The district does not condone "sensitivity training" in its curriculum or methodology as defined in the following paragraph:

"Sensitivity training" is a highly controversial, admittedly experimental educational procedure intended to alter attitudes and behavior of individuals. "Sensitivity training" is conducted in group meetings, using a process which employs a trainer or teacher who utilizes group pressure, emotion manipulation which may be in the form of body awareness or non-verbal exercises, self-confession, or self and group criticism. It is also "coercive" persuasion in the form of thought reform or brainwashing.

The district does not require attendance at sensitivity training sessions of any teacher or student, nor does it include sensitivity training as defined above in the training recommended to teachers for their professional advancement. The district does not condone, advocate, promote, practice, or authorize instructional activities which place students in a humiliating, compromising, or socially unacceptable situation. Should such a situation allegedly or in fact occur, it would be without official sanction calling for immediate investigation and appropriate action.

Ref: EC Section 35161

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Reviewed: July 1, 2000