

Administrative Regulation

Controversial Issues, Education Code Provisions Relating to

Each building principal shall inform staff members of the applicability of pertinent sections of the Education Code reproduced herein.

A. Prohibited Instruction or Activity

EC - 51500: No teacher shall give instruction nor shall a school district sponsor any activity which reflects adversely upon persons because of their race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation.

B. Prohibited Means of Instruction

EC - 51501: No textbook, or other instructional materials, shall be adopted by the state Board or by any Governing Board for use in the public schools which contains any matter reflecting adversely upon persons because of their race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation.

C. Prohibited Study or Supplemental Materials

EC - 51510: Except as to textbooks approved by the state Board or a county Board of Education, no bulletin, circular, or publication may be used as the basis of study or recitation or to supplement the regular school studies if the material contained in the bulletin, circular, or publication has been disapproved by the Governing Board of the school district in which the school is situated.

D. Religious Matters Properly Included in Courses of Study

EC - 51511: Nothing in this code shall be construed to prevent, or exclude from the public schools, references to religion or references to or use of religious literature, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts or other things having a religious significance when such references or uses do not constitute instruction in religious principles or aid to any religious sect, church, creed, or sectarian purpose and when such references or uses are incidental to or illustrative of matters properly included in the course of study.

E. Prohibition and Definition

EC - 51530: No teacher giving instruction in any school, or on any property belonging to any agencies included in the public school system, shall advocate or teach communism with the intent to indoctrinate or to inculcate in the mind of any pupil a preference for communism.

In prohibiting the advocacy or teaching of communism with the intent of indoctrinating or inculcating a preference in the mind of any pupil for such doctrine, the Legislature does not intend to prevent the teaching of facts about communism. Rather, the Legislature intends to prevent the advocacy of, or inculcation and indoctrination into, communism as is hereinafter defined, for the purposes of undermining patriotism for and the belief in the government of the United States and of the State of California.

For the purposes of this section, communism is a political theory that the presently existing form of government of the United States or of this state should be changed, by force, violence or other unconstitutional means, to a totalitarian dictatorship which is based on the principles of communism as expounded by Marx, Lenin, and Stalin.

F. Treatment of Animals

EC - 51540: In the public elementary and high schools or in public elementary and high school-sponsored activities and classes held elsewhere than on school premises, live vertebrate animals shall not, as part of a scientific experiment or any purpose whatever:

- (a) be experimentally medicated or drugged in a manner to cause painful reactions or induce painful or lethal pathological conditions.
- (b) injured through any other treatments, including, but not limited to, anesthetization or electric shock.

Live animals on the premises of a public elementary or high school shall be housed and cared for in a humane and safe manner.

The provisions of this section are not intended to prohibit or constrain vocational instruction in the normal practices of animal husbandry.

Ref: EC Sections 51500-51540  
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