

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, sex, color, creed, handicap, national origin, or ancestry.

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, sex, color, creed, handicap, national origin or ancestry.

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, art or music, 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.

G. Classroom Displays of Curricular and or Supplemental Materials

The classroom is part of the academic experience. Pursuant to our policies and curriculum guidelines, we encourage meaningful discussions about controversial subjects with students to the extent appropriate, support student speech, and continue to support and recognize the importance of making classrooms nurturing and welcoming places. Because posting on the classroom walls of materials can reasonably be assumed to have the sponsorship of the school, it is necessary to provide guidance regarding what is appropriate to the learning environment and ensure that all students feel safe in school. Displaying posters with targeted viewpoints may alienate students, or result in the posting of counter viewpoints which will distract from classroom instruction.

Appropriate displays:

- Supplemental materials and text providing additional coverage or reinforcement of instructional materials;
- Student work;
- Posters, displays, and materials directly related to the instructional topics and objectives of the course;
- Site approved posters or materials related to upcoming events (e.g., advertisements for “club fairs,” schedules for extra-curricular activities, bell schedules, etc.);
- District-approved and provided posters of materials related to District-wide initiatives (e.g. posters provided following inclusivity trainings, etc.); and
- The flag of the United State of America (EC 52720)

Potentially inappropriate displays:

- Flags or posters that are not related to the instructional content (note: a flag for a country or with historical connotation would be appropriate in a history class during specific lessons or when studying a foreign language).
- Flags or posters that support a single club unless the room is used for club meetings, in which case they should be designated “club corner” or area; and
- Any political messaging (note: posters encouraging voting are appropriate and posters for historical elections may be appropriate if related to instructional areas).

Ref: EC Sections 51500-51540

Approved: July 1, 1970

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