



RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM

TEACHING CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS | 7003.2

The At the beginning of each school year or each semester, teachers are expected to:

1. Inform parents of course requirements
2. Provide course descriptions and overviews
3. Include, as part of the overview process, lists of materials and resources for each subject area course that they teach

These descriptions/overviews should conform to the subject area content outlined in the Curriculum Alignment Maps. Teachers are required to use the Curriculum Alignment Maps and/or the approved District textbook series as primary resources for the particular subject.

From time to time, however, teachers may wish to enrich the curriculum with either information or topics that could be considered controversial based on individual moral or religious beliefs. In order to introduce and use such materials, adherence to the following procedures is required:

1. The teacher develops goals and objectives, instructional materials, etc. that give a clear description of the content (including the source). The materials should support and be consistent with the District's general instructional goals and the educational objectives of the individual school. Diverse interests, abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and maturity levels must be considered.
2. The principal who is responsible for reviewing the instructional unit must give permission for its use prior to the presentation.
3. The principal, in determining the appropriateness of the materials, should consider all of the following:
 - a. Favorable reviews of the materials found in standard selection resources
 - b. Favorable recommendations based on preview and examination of materials by professional staff
 - c. Contribution the subject matter makes to the curriculum and the interests of students
 - d. Reputation and significance of the author, producer, publisher.
4. The principal must notify the Deputy Superintendent for Student Support Services or designee in writing of his/her approval of the instructional unit.
5. Parents must be notified in writing and given sufficient time to refuse permission for a student to participate. A comparable and challenging alternative must be provided for students not taking part in the planned activity.

Questions about the information contained in this administrative memorandum should be directed to the Deputy Superintendent.