

1 **Browning Public Schools**

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3 **Policy #4330**

4 Policy Name: *Controversial Issues and Academic Freedom*

5 Regulation: -----

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7 The District shall offer courses of study, which will afford learning experiences appropriate to the
8 level of student understanding. The instructional program shall respect the right of students to face
9 issues, to have free access to information, to study under teachers in situations free from prejudice,
10 and to form, hold, and express their own opinions without personal prejudice or discrimination.

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12 Teachers shall guide discussions and procedures with thoroughness and objectivity to acquaint
13 students with the need to recognize opposing viewpoints, importance of fact, value of good
14 judgment, and the virtue of respect for conflicting opinions.

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16 The Board encourages and supports the concept of academic freedom, recognizing it as a necessary
17 condition to aid in maintaining an environment conducive to learning and the free exchange of ideas
18 and information.

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20 In the study or discussion of controversial issues or materials, however, the Board directs the
21 teaching staff to take into account the following criteria:

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23 1. relative maturity of students;
24 2. District philosophy of education;
25 3. community standards, morals and values;
26 4. the necessity for a balanced presentation; and
27 5. the necessity to seek prior administrative counsel and guidance in such matters.

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29 The right of academic freedom does not relieve teachers of the obligation to address District
30 curriculum.

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36 **Cross Reference:** Former Policy # 1010

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38 **Legal Reference:** Article X, Sec.8, Montana Constitution
39 20-3-324(16) and (17) MCA Powers and Duties

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42 **Policy History:**

43 Adopted on: 5/31/00

44 Revised on: