

FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN NONINSTRUCTIONAL SETTINGS

The Board of Education acknowledges the right of its professional staff members, as citizens in a democratic society, to speak out on issues of public concern. When those issues are related to the District, however, the professional staff member's expression must be balanced against the interests of this District.

The following guidelines are adopted by the Board to help clarify and, therefore, avoid situations in which the professional staff member's expression could conflict with the District's interests. In such situations, s/he should:

- A. state clearly that his/her expression represents personal views and not necessarily those of the School District;
- B. refrain from expressions that would disrupt harmony among co-workers or interfere with the maintenance of discipline by school officials;
- C. not make threats or abusive or personally-defamatory comments about **students**, co-workers, administrators, or officials of the District;
- D. refrain from making public expressions which s/he knows to be false or are made without regard for truth or accuracy.

Adopted 6/26/06  
To Board 1<sup>st</sup> Reading 11/9/15  
To Board 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 11/23/15