

Policy Code: 3105 Academic Freedom

The Board supports academic freedom for students and teachers. Academic freedom includes the right of students to learn freely and reach their own decisions and beliefs about controversial and conflicting points of view and to acquire the skills necessary to arrive at these independent conclusions. Academic freedom also encompasses the right of teachers in their field of expertise to pursue the search for knowledge in its many forms.

Academic freedom allows and encourages licensed employees and students the opportunity to study, investigate, hear, present, interpret, and discuss facts and ideas relevant to the classroom subject. Nonetheless, the facts and ideas must be in accordance with the maturity and intellectual and emotional capacities of the students and appropriate for the content area. Academic freedom allows teachers to supplement but not ignore the locally adopted curriculum. It is the responsibility of the teacher to provide a balance of viewpoints when appropriate.

The principal, as the instructional leader of the school, is responsible for encouraging academic freedom as a means for students and teachers to be engaged actively in the learning process without infringing on the rights of others to learn in an academic setting. The principal is also responsible for ensuring that academic freedom is not abused.

Legal References: [U.S. Constitution amend. I](#); [N.C. Constitution art. I](#), § 14; [G.S. 115C-36](#), [-47](#)

Cross References: Citizenship Education (Policy 3530)

Adopted:

Revised: 9/5/02

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools
