

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY

CODE: 311

SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE OF ADOPTION: 3-15-82

Revised: 4/26/93

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

A professional staff seeks to educate people in the democratic tradition, to foster recognition of individual freedom and social responsibility, to inspire meaningful awareness of and respect for the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and to instill appreciation of each individual's values. These democratic values can best be transmitted in an atmosphere free from censorship and artificial restraints on free inquiry and learning, and in which academic freedom for teachers and students is encouraged.

Academic freedom within the confines of state law and district policy will be guaranteed to teachers in order to create in the classroom an atmosphere of freedom. This atmosphere permits students to raise questions dealing with critical issues of the time. An atmosphere of freedom produces an environment conducive to the study, investigation, presentation, and interpretation of facts. The teacher is responsible for exercising good judgment in selecting issues for discussion of value to the students involved. The teacher's responsibility should be to show objectivity in order that various sides of controversial issues are given.

In the process of educating the youth of the Deerfield Community School District, the professional staff will not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap in its educational programs or activities.