

1 **St. Regis School District**

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3 **INSTRUCTION**

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5 Controversial Issues and Academic Freedom

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7 The District offers courses of study which will afford learning experiences appropriate to levels
8 of student understanding. The instructional program respects the right of students to face issues,
9 to have free access to information, to study under teachers in situations free from prejudice, and
10 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 various points of view, 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
17 necessary condition to aid in maintaining an environment conducive to learning and to the free
18 exchange of ideas and information.

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20 In a study or discussion of controversial issues or materials, the Board directs teaching staff to
21 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. Necessity for a balanced presentation; and
27 5. Necessity to seek administrative counsel and guidance in such matters.

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31 Legal Reference: Article X, Sec. 8, Montana Constitution - School district trustees
32 20-3-324(16) and (17), MCAPowers and duties

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34 Policy History:

35 Adopted on: March 8, 2006

36 Revised on: