

**FILE: INB**

**MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

<b>DATE ADOPTED:</b>	<b>February 15, 1993</b>	<b>FILE SECTOR:</b>	<b>INSTRUCTION</b>
<b>DATE REVISED:</b>	<b>February 21, 2002</b>	<b>POLICY TITLE:</b>	<b>TEACHING ABOUT</b>
<b>DATE REVISED:</b>	<b>July 19, 2007</b>		<b>CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES</b>
<b>DATE REVISED:</b>	<b>February 20, 2014</b>		
<b>DATE REVISED:</b>	<b>June 22, 2020</b>		

Differences of opinion are a continuing and important part of life in a democratic society. It is, therefore, a responsibility of the school to help young people develop the skills of rational thought that are needed for an objective approach to a study of issues on which people differ.

Rational discussion of controversial issues should be an important part of the school program. The teacher should help students identify relevant information, learn the techniques of critical analysis, make independent judgments, and be prepared to present and support them. The teacher should also help students become sensitive to the continuing need for objective re-examination of issues in light of new information and changing conditions in society.

In no situation will a student be required to read printed material, see or hear other audio-visual material, or listen to a speaker who is advocating beliefs, issues or ideas that are contrary to the convictions of the student and/or their parent(s)/guardian(s).

**CROSS REFERENCE: IGAC**

**LEGAL REFERENCE: §118.01 and §118.019, Wis. Stats.**