

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The teacher must be free to think and to express ideas, free to select and employ materials and methods of instruction, free from undue pressures of authority,* and free to act within his professional group. Such freedom should be used judiciously and prudently to the end that it promotes the free exercise of intelligence and pupil learning.

Academic freedom is not an absolute. It must be exercised within the basic ethical responsibilities of the teaching profession. Those responsibilities include:

1. A commitment to democratic tradition and its methods.
2. A concern for the welfare, growth and development of children.
3. The method of scholarship.
4. Application of good taste and judgment in selecting and employing materials and methods of instruction.
5. Awareness of the needs and sensitivity of the community.
6. An effort to meet the goals and objectives of the school system.

Under the Mansfield School Policy, a teacher must adhere to established scope and sequence for subjects, curriculum guides, and guidelines to teaching about controversial issues.

SOURCE: Mansfield