

**MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #53
Burnham – Detroit – Pittsfield**

Academic Freedom

The MSAD #53 Board of Directors believes that academic freedom is essential to the fulfillment of the purposes of the school system. It acknowledges the fundamental need to protect teachers from any censorship or restraint which might interfere with their obligation to pursue truth in the performance of their classroom functions. Accordingly, the Board holds that:

1. The Board shall insure that an atmosphere of academic freedom exists within the schools.
2. Teachers will be responsible for determining when and how to respond to controversial issues according to the maturity and needs of students and the policies of the Board of Directors.
3. The community has a right to expect that controversial issues will be presented in a fair and unbiased manner and to communicate with the teacher and/or the principal if any additional clarification is necessary.

Policy Reference: 8.15 Exemption from Required Instruction
11.07 Controversial Issues

Adopted: October 4, 1993
Amended: December 7, 2009