

Administrative Procedure 208: Community Perceptions and Norms: Controversial Issues

The Good Spirit School Division's Administrative Procedure (AP 208) outlines the approach to handling sensitive and controversial issues in education, emphasizing parent choice and involvement. Here's a summary for parents, families, and community members:



Educational Approach

The Division promotes the exploration of diverse perspectives in classrooms. This approach aims to develop students' abilities to think clearly, reason logically, and consider different viewpoints respectfully. It recognizes that students come from varied backgrounds and may have different views on topics like human sexuality, evolution, tragic events, relationship abuse, addictions, and diverse ways of knowing.

Educational Oversight

- Teachers' lesson plans, including outcomes, resources, and strategies, require approval by the principal.
- The principal and staff develop instructional expectations within the framework of the Division's procedures.
- By involving parents and respecting community norms, the Good Spirit School Division aims to create a respectful and inclusive educational environment that accommodates diverse viewpoints and supports parent choice in their children's education.

Curriculum Examination

- The curriculum includes contextual, creative, and critical thinking processes.
- Students are encouraged to self-reflect and engage with a wide range of information sources.
- Teaching about controversial issues will consider community norms, student maturity, and the intended learning outcomes of the provincial curriculum.
- Safe Learning Environment: The Division ensures a safe environment for exploring controversial issues. It prioritizes respect for all students, preventing ridicule or embarrassment for their beliefs and addressing any discriminatory views.

Parental Involvement and Choice

- Parents are actively involved in discussions about controversial issues and community perceptions.
- The Division encourages parents to meet with teachers and principals to understand the curriculum and specific teaching content.
- Parents receive detailed information about instruction on certain topics (like puberty and sexual health at various grade levels) and are given opportunities to ask questions and express concerns.



gssd.ca/division/administrative-procedures

