

File: IB

Academic Freedom

Academic freedom is the right of an educator to be free from unreasonable restraints in research, publication, and classroom discussion. The student has the right to discuss, learn and to have access to all points of view.

In exercising these rights, both the educator and student have the responsibility to abide by the Ipswich School Committee policies, administrative regulations, and to comply with the requirements of the law.

It is recognized that the application of the principle of academic freedom may result in controversial issues. Such situations occur in matters of interest in which there is no agreement approaching unanimity among students, educators, and community.

In the presentation and discussion of controversial issues, the learning community (administrators, educators and students) has the following responsibilities:

- 1) To be objective and impartial educators and respectful and open-minded learners;
- 2) To present materials which are evidence based and relevant to the subject area;
- 3) To participate in a learning atmosphere which presents divergent points of view;
- 4) To discuss issues which are appropriate to the students' level of ability and maturity; and
- 5) To ensure that opinions expressed do not promote hurtful actions against other individuals or groups in the community.

ADOPTED: MARCH 2022