

**TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION
POLICY and PROCEDURES**

Title	Effective Date	Revision Date	No. of Pages
NO. 407 Sensitive Issues	July 3, 1996	May 3, 2017	2

It is the policy of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education to recognize that sensitive issues exist within the curriculum and will arise as part of discussions in various subject areas, presentations, and workshops.

Sensitive issues are embedded in the curriculum in ways that encourage teachers and students to engage in important conversations. The Tri-County Regional Centre for Education also recognizes that these issues will arise in response to societal events. Teachers and students will engage in conversations or activities aimed at helping students deal with or understand these events/issues.

Canadian students bring diverse histories, experiences, cultures and values to the classroom, and it is therefore important to pay attention to how issues will be addressed and how they may be interpreted and experienced by all students.

The ability to discuss and listen, regardless of personal opinion, is an essential element of responsible citizenship. Such study provides students with opportunities to develop skills in analyzing issues, respecting the opinion of others, distinguishing between fact and opinion, and considering all pertinent factors in decision making.

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1. It is the responsibility of all teachers to follow the most current publication of *Public School Programs*. Refer to Policy 400-Public School Program.
2. Teachers will provide educational experiences for their students by creating a supportive environment which:
 - Honours self-worth and dignity
 - Is respectful and inclusive
 - Encourages students to learn and ask questions
 - Uses age and developmentally appropriate teaching methods and materials

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3. Sensitive issues shall be studied with objectivity by both teachers and students. Teachers shall not suppress a student's view, value and/or belief on an issue as long as the expression of that view, value, or belief is not derogatory, malicious or abusive toward other students' views.
4. Teachers will ensure that parents/guardians are informed about the content of the courses in which their child is enrolled. This information will be included in the teacher's Communication Plan to families at the beginning of each school year or semester. If additional information around the teacher's Communication Plan is required, it shall be provided.
5. Students and/or their parents/guardians may request an alternative educational experience to the ones planned for a particular course, assignment, workshop, presentation, field trip, etc. if the content of the educational experience conflicts with the values/beliefs of the family. This request must be made to the student's teacher. An alternative experience may be provided where appropriate.
6. Teachers who invite external organizations into their classrooms/schools have the following responsibilities:
 - Be present in the room while instruction is being delivered
 - Ensure compliance with Tri-County Regional Centre for Education policies
 - Review and assure that all materials, handouts, and videos are accurate and age appropriate.