

Van Buren County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in March	Descriptor Term: Staff Rights & Responsibilities	Descriptor Code: 5.600	Issued Date: 06/17/99
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 In fulfilling any citizenship rights and responsibilities, employees shall give proper consideration to
2 the educational welfare of the students and ensure that no conflict exists with their actual duties.

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4 **ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

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6 The Board recognizes the right of a teacher to discuss any social, economic, or political problems as well
7 as the right of a student to explore any field or hold any belief without interference from the teacher.

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9 Academic freedom within the confines of state law and board policy will be guaranteed to teachers
10 in order to create an atmosphere of freedom in the classroom. This permits students to raise ques-
11 tions dealing with critical issues of the time and produces an environment conducive to the study,
12 investigation, presentation, and interpretation of facts.

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14 The teacher is responsible for exercising good judgment in selecting issues for discussion and must
15 balance the relative maturity of his/her students and the students' right to know.

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Cross References:

- Curriculum Development 4.200
- Reconsideration of Instructional Material & Textbooks 4.403
- Controversial Issues 4.800
- Religion in the Curriculum 4.804