

CLASSROOM LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Purpose

Curriculum, classroom décor, and classroom instruction shall be designed to create an atmosphere where all students are valued and supported. The Board recognizes and encourages the right of employees, as citizens, to engage in political activity, sociopolitical advocacy, sexual orientation advocacy, gender identity advocacy, and religious advocacy. However, district time, resources, property, or equipment, paid for by taxpayers, may not be used for such purposes by district employees when performing duties during assigned work hours.

It is important to demonstrate respect for the diverse beliefs of our community. Out of respect for the fact that personal beliefs are of great importance to many members of the school community and their families, staff members should not use their position of authority or classroom décor to advocate for their personal beliefs. All teachers are expected to demonstrate compassion and support for all their students.

Guidelines

Classroom décor and environment should be focused on learning and reflective of academic units of study. Décor related to political, sociopolitical, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious beliefs in the classroom other than as described below, is prohibited.

The following situations are exempt from the provisions of this policy:

1. Wearing jewelry, consistent with the professional dress, that symbolically represents an individual's personal beliefs.
2. Display of personal family pictures.
3. Display of the flag of the United States or California.
4. Décor used as part of a temporary unit of study within the district approved curriculum.
5. District provided décor.