

Classroom Environment

Regarding the teaching of controversial issues, personnel are directed to Policy 2340. The Code of Ethics for Idaho Professional Educators shall be read consistently with this policy. Nothing contained in this policy limits any employee or student of the District from exercising lawfully recognized independent speech or association rights, consistent with all other Policy and as appropriate in a limited public forum public school setting or engaging in instruction of subjects consistent with the District's Policy and approved curriculum. This provision is directed solely regarding the use of the District's physical property.

It is the desire of the District that the physical environment of District facilities be content neutral, conducive to a positive learning environment and not a distraction to the educational environment. Therefore, school property shall not be used by personnel for the advancement of individual beliefs and classroom decor shall be limited to materials that are related and relevant to the approved curriculum for the classroom where the curriculum is taught.

The Salmon School District, on behalf of its employees, students, and parents, consistent with Idaho Code, firmly believes the flag of the United States of America should be displayed in every classroom of its schools. The Board also believes that all physical property displayed in the District should encourage a positive learning environment, and the classroom arranged in such a manner to support the instructional goals and District-approved curriculum.

To foster these goals, the only other flags, or banners (including posters, signs, pictures or other digital or physical images) that may be flown, posted, or affixed to the physical property of the District will be content neutral and conducive to a positive learning environment.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. The current Idaho state flag;
2. Flags or banners used as part of a temporary unit of student instruction within the approved curriculum or school-approved clubs:
 - a. Such flag or banner shall present factually accurate historic events;
 - b. Flags of countries representing the nations of the world temporarily used for educational purposes as approved by the building principal or designee;
 - c. Club flags or materials that are used for the club meetings and school-approved events during the duration of the meeting or event only.
3. Virtual displays that are used as a routine part of the class-approved curriculum or in aid of learning – i.e., periodic table, mathematical equations, the U.S., or Idaho Constitution, motivational posters;
4. Displays that denote a recognition of achievement by the District, School., or class and approved by the building principal or designee;

5. School or District sports tournament flags or banners, recognizing the participation of a school team;
6. Content promoting post-secondary educational opportunities from colleges, or universities or professional sports teams;
7. Student works/student artworks may be used as part of a temporary display, so long as such artwork is not otherwise in violation of District Policy;
8. Information from Student Clubs in displays approved by the building principal or designee, consistent with Policy 3225;
9. Classroom activity photos, consistent with FERPA requirements;
10. Personal family photographs of school employees;
11. Promotional materials from athletic and activities sponsors as approved by the building principal or designee.

Any questions relating to the appropriateness of materials should be directed to the Building principal or designee. Any patron complaint shall be addressed by following the steps outlined in the Uniform Grievance Policy #4120.

The Administration is delegated authority to develop procedures to implement this policy.

Legal Reference:

Johnson v. Poway Unified Sch. Dist., 658 F.3d 954 (9th Cir.2011).

I.C. § 33-118 Courses of study — Curricular materials

I.C. § 33-512A District curricular materials adoption committees

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Revised on:

Reviewed on: