**Fremont Board Policy** **64D.2**

# ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Academic freedom may be defined as the right of a qualified scholar to pursue the search for truth in its many forms and to make public his/her methods and findings. It is the right of a qualified teacher to encourage freedom of discussion and controversial questions in the classroom, and to develop in his/her students a love of knowledge and a desire to search for truth. The teachers should keep in mind that academic freedom is a necessary condition for the successful practice of the academic profession in a free society.

The Fremont Board of Education expects its school personnel, to the best of their ability, to:

1. Select curriculum, teaching methods, resources, and materials appropriate to the educational objectives and the maturity and skill levels of the students based on their professional competence as educators and according to established school board policies and procedures. However, teachers are not to indoctrinate students with their own personal views.

2. Provide students with access to a broad range of ideas and viewpoints.

3. Encourage students to become decision makes, to exercise freedom of thought, and to make independent judgments through the examination and evaluation of relevant information, evidence, facts, and differing viewpoints.

Because it believes in a democratic education, the Board of Education will not allow individuals or groups outside the public schools to:

1. Use the public schools to indoctrinate students with particular viewpoints or beliefs,

2. Determine which viewpoints will be presented or avoided in public schools,

3. Require the disciplining of professional staff for including issues or resources considered controversial in their classes if the reasons for including them are educationally sound.

**Adopted: November 9, 1987**