

**TERRELL COUNTY BOARD POLICY
IHG Controversial Issues and Speakers**

**Descriptive Code: IKB
Date: 2/13/2012
Rescinds Code: IKB
Date Issued: 9/1/1975**

If an objection is made to student or teacher materials, the following procedures are to be followed:

1. Ask the complainant to file his objections in writing.
2. Temporarily withdraw the material pending a decision of the media committee.
3. Inform the superintendent or designee.
4. The Media Committee will:
 - a. Examine the materials
 - b. Check general acceptance of materials by reading reviews
 - c. Weigh values and concerns of materials based as a whole not on individual passages pulled out of context
 - d. Prepare a written report
 - e. File copy of report with superintendent or designee with recommendations
 - f. Superintendent or designee will maintain file on controversial materials.
5. Superintendent will make recommendation to Board of Education for final determination.

The Board recognizes that visiting speakers may be of specific persuasions and that their topics may be controversial. If they are prohibited from speaking because of their points of view, academic freedom is endangered. Students need to study issues upon which there is disagreement and to practice analyzing problems, gather and organizing facts, discriminating between facts and opinions, discussing differing viewpoints and drawing tentative conclusions.

When correctly handled, the use of controversial speakers becomes an invaluable component in accomplishing the goals of citizenship education. However, this places a serious responsibility on the professional staff members to correctly structure the learning situation involving a speaker.

All speakers must be cleared through the school principal, who shall endeavor to engage speakers for both sides of the issues. In no instance shall a speaker who advocated unconstitutional or illegal acts or procedures be permitted to address students.

Principals have the authority to stop a speaker who has over stepped the limits of academic freedom.