

Personnel -- Certified

Academic Freedom

The teacher must be free to think, to express ideas, to select and employ materials and methods of instruction that are appropriate to the classroom and New Milford school system and free to act within the teacher's professional group. Such freedom must be used judiciously and prudently so that it promotes the free exercise of intelligence and student learning.

Academic freedom, not an absolute, must be exercised within the law and the basic ethical responsibilities of the teaching profession. Those responsibilities include:

1. an understanding of our democratic tradition and its methods;
2. a concern for the welfare, growth, maturity, and development of children;
3. the method of scholarship; and
4. application of good taste and judgment in selecting and employing materials and methods of instruction.
5. a recognition of the distinction between teaching and indoctrination. Schools should teach students how to think. To study an idea is not necessarily to endorse an idea.

The Board retains sole discretion in determining what instruction, materials and teacher conduct is appropriate to its classrooms and school system.

(cf. 1220 - Citizens' Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1312 - Public Complaints)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6144 - Controversial Issues)

(cf. 6161 - Equipment, Books, Materials: Provision/Selection)

Legal Reference: Amendment to U.S. Constitution, Article I
Connecticut Constitution, ARTICLE FIRST, Declaration of Rights,
Sections 4,5

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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Milford, Connecticut