

SUGAR VALLEY RURAL CHARTER SCHOOL

POLICY NUMBER: 119
SECTION: PROGRAMS
TITLE: **CURRENT EVENTS**
DATE ADOPTED: NOVEMBER 1998
DATE LAST REVISED: NOVEMBER 2008

CURRENT EVENTS

PURPOSE

The Board believes that consideration of current events has a legitimate place in the educational program of the schools.

Properly introduced and conducted, consideration of such events can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop skills for formulating and evaluating positions.

DEFINITION

For purposes of this policy, a **current event** is a topic:

1. On which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion.
2. Likely to arouse both support and opposition.
3. Not expressly enumerated in the course guide as appropriate for the course of study.

AUTHORITY

The Board shall permit the introduction and proper educational use of current events provided that their use in the instructional program:

1. Is related to the course's instructional goals and the students' level of maturity.
2. Does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view.

When current events have not been specified in the course guide, the Board shall permit instructional use of only those issues which have been approved by the department head.

The Board recognizes that some deviation from the assigned course guide is necessary in the free exchange of the classroom. However, the Board specifies for the guidance of the CEO and staff

that any discussion of current events in the classroom shall be conducted in an unprejudiced and dispassionate manner and shall not:

1. Disrupt the educational process.
2. Fail to match the maturity level of students.
3. Be unrelated to the goals of the district and the appropriate course guide.

DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

In the discussion of any event, a teacher may express a personal opinion; but s/he shall identify it as such and must not express such an opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view.

The CEO shall assist teaching staff members to:

1. Develop alertness to the occurrence of current events in the context of the curriculum.
2. Develop techniques for the management of current events which do not stifle a spirit of free and scholarly inquiry.