

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Subject: Academic Freedom	Date Approved: December 14, 1999 January 17, 2006 February 17, 2009 Date Revised: December 13, 2005 December 16, 2008 Date Effective: December 14, 1999 January 17, 2006 February 17, 2009

1. **PURPOSE**

To establish the principles of academic freedom.

2. **DESCRIPTION**

- A. The outcomes of a course, provisions for its implementation, and supervision shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and Division of Instruction staff. The academic freedom of teachers is directly related to specific teaching assignments and responsibilities.
- B. In performance of their teaching functions, teachers shall be responsible to provide students with opportunities to investigate all facets, sides, and/or opinions of and about any and all topics and materials introduced or presented. The teacher shall further be responsible to permit the expression of the views and opinions of others; to encourage students to examine, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize all available information about such topics and materials prior to forming their own views; and to encourage the right of individuals to form and hold different views and opinions. The Board of Education expects teachers to express their personal opinions on such issues, within the context of a broad sharing of diverse ideas, and in no way to penalize students for not holding the same or like opinions.
- C. Such material presented to students must be relevant to the basic content of the course and appropriate to the age, maturity level and intellectual ability of the students.