

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Reg. No. 500-40
Subject: TEACHING OF POTENTIALLY CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES/USE OF HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS	Issued: 5/12/21
Preparing Office: Office of the Superintendent	Amended:

I. Policy 516, Policy 432 and Policy 500

II. Procedures

- A. The principal, in conjunction with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff and with appropriate staff in the FCPS Curriculum, Instruction and Innovation Department, and in accordance with curricular guidelines, bears the primary responsibility for the development of school procedures for the teaching ¹ of controversial issues, both past and present.
- B. Teachers are expected to follow Board of Education of Frederick County (Board) approved criteria for determining appropriateness of issues for consideration as part of the curriculum and adhere to criteria listed below:
 1. The treatment of the issue in question will be within range, knowledge, maturity, and competence of the students.
 2. The issue will be significant and curriculum related, but utilizing time proportionate in relation to the regularly planned curriculum, and should not adversely impact instruction.
 3. Rather than sharing their own views or opinions, teachers ² are expected to present material, facilitate respectful conversation, and create a safe classroom space for student discourse.
 4. Instruction and instructional materials should address diverse viewpoints providing a balance of information that affords students opportunities to develop skills in assessing the credibility and corroborative value of information in constructing their own views.

¹ For the purposes of this regulation, teaching is interpreted to mean teaching in either a virtual or in-person classroom.

² For purposes of this regulation, teachers include instructional staff such as substitute teachers and instructional assistants.

5. Curriculum, Instruction and Innovation staff, in consultation with Accelerating Achievement and Equity staff, will provide training and support to instructional staff as it relates to best practices in teaching of potentially controversial subject matter to address parameters as stated above and in compliance with Board Policy 516. This training will include an overview of Board Policy 516 and FCPS Regulation 500-40 and will equip instructional staff with the knowledge and competencies needed to prepare for and facilitate general and discipline specific conversations on controversial topics.

Approved:

original signed by

Theresa R. Alban
Superintendent