

### **Teaching about Controversial/Sensitive Issues**

The Twin Peaks Charter Academy Board of Directors recognizes that there may be times when controversial or sensitive issues may need to be addressed in the curriculum. Parents may opt-out of a unit study area of instruction for topics that go against their moral beliefs by requesting an alternate assignment from the teacher. Requests to opt-out of whole curriculum areas must be brought to the Principal's attention, to be brought before the B.O.D. for a final decision. When parents or guardians disagree with the curriculum or the manner in which the curriculum is being taught, the following steps may be taken:

1. The parent may place a phone call or write a note requesting their child not participate in a unit of study, and request an alternate assignment. The student will not have to participate in the area of instruction in question, until the matter has been resolved.
2. The complaint is given to the particular teacher and a meeting between the two parties is held within five school days, if needed. If the parent continues to have an objection, an alternative assignment will be given. When an alternate assignment is given, it will be with no negative consequences to the student. If the complaint is resolved, no further action is needed.
3. If the parent or guardian is not satisfied, the complaint can be brought to the Principal. The Principal must be notified by the teacher if the request involves whole curriculum areas. The Principal will schedule a meeting within five school days which will be attended by the parent, teacher and the Principal. The Principal's decision will be followed unless appealed in writing to the Twin Peaks Charter Academy Board of Directors, or unless the matter is required to be referred to the TPCA Board.
4. If the parent is still not satisfied, he or she may appeal in writing to the Twin Peaks Charter Academy Board of Directors. The board must also be notified if the request involves whole curriculum areas of instruction. The Board will make the final decision and give direction which will be binding upon all parties.

Materials will be reviewed using a criteria of whether or not they significantly enhance and complete the Core Knowledge Sequence or other instructional areas, and whether or not they are age-level appropriate, well done, factual, or contain controversial elements. Materials that contain controversial topics that may include sexual content, bias and stereotype, profanity, graphic violence, or a theme that goes against the character education training at TPCA may be approved for use, if they are determined to add to instruction; but will require a parent notification letter, to be sent within 10 school days before use, describing the area that might be a concern.

Approved August 22, 1996

Revised September 24, 1998

hCROSS REFS.: T-IB, Educational Freedom  
T-IJ, Instructional Resources and Materials  
T-KEC, Public Concerns/complaints about Instructional  
Resources

CONTRACT REF.: Twin Peaks Charter Academy Employee Contract