

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

402 ACADEMIC FREEDOM and INTEGRITY

A. ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Members enjoy academic freedom in the District. Members are free to present instructional materials that are pertinent to the subject and level taught, within the outlines of the appropriate course content, the planned instructional program, and in accordance with School Board policy.

Members have a professional responsibility to meet student learning styles and differentiate instruction, adjust lessons, create learning schedules, utilize supplemental teaching materials, create an appropriate learning environment, and administer appropriate assessments.

Members shall also be entitled to freedom of discussion within the classroom on all matters relevant to the subject matter under study within their areas of professional competence. Facts concerning controversial issues shall be presented in a scholarly and objective manner and shall be pedagogically justifiable and discussion shall be maintained within the outlines of the member's course content. Members shall not be censored or restrained in the performance of their duties exclusively on the grounds that the material discussed and/or opinions expressed are controversial.

B. Curriculum / Program Committee

1. **The Association and District agree to collaborate on how to best meet student needs by creating a Curriculum/Program Committee. If a change in practice, program, and/or services is to be considered, the AEA/ASD Curriculum/Program Committee will meet to discuss the proposed changes, including but not limited to:**

A. Overarching description of how the proposed program helps meet the district's strategic goals and the deficiencies of

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current programs, curriculum, or services in meeting those strategic goals.

- B. Program overview and student academic objectives.**
- C. A comprehensive implementation plan including: training dates, program start dates, expected time utilization, dates for program evaluation / effectiveness, employee categories & list of employees who will be participating.**
- D. Thorough plan for program evaluation of effectiveness.**

This committee will be composed of equal numbers of Association and District representatives. The committee will meet within the contract day or be provided with per diem.

The AEA/ASD Curriculum/Program Committee shall be tasked with making program and curriculum recommendations to the board.

In addition to a scheduled recess for elementary students of at least 20 minutes, exclusive of lunch and five minutes of dressing time before and after, the District will allow members the flexibility to provide their own students additional time for indoor or outdoor play. This recess time will allow students to be more focused on academics during instruction and insure compliance with state law that requires at least 60 minutes of physical activity.

The submission of lesson plans shall only be required for a member on a plan of growth or plan of improvement.

- E. Members will be given the professional freedom to arrange classroom furniture, materials and supplies to best meet the needs of planned learning activities.**

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