

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

402 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Academic freedom establishes a faculty member's right to remain true to his or her pedagogical philosophy and intellectual commitments. It preserves the intellectual integrity of our educational system and thus serves the public good.

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.

In addition, 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. If a change in practice, program, and/or services is to be considered, the Association shall be involved. That involvement will include full opportunity for the Curriculum / Program Committee to review proposed changes and monitor implementation to student information systems, curriculum, other programs, and additional items that are mutually agreed upon. The committee will address the following**

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- a. Overarching description of how the proposed program helps meet the district's strategic goals.
 - b. Program overview and student academic objectives.
 - c. Description / list of employees who will be participating.
 - d. A comprehensive implementation plan including: training dates, program start dates, expected time utilization, dates for program evaluation / effectiveness.
 - e. Thorough plan for program evaluation of effectiveness.
2. The parties agree to identify and provide all time required for members to be trained and implement a new program. Prior to implementation, the Committee will identify how members will be compensated for any additional time required because of trainings and/or implementation (flex time, addenda, etc.).
3. 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.
4. The Association reserves the right to petition the School Board to intervene in disputes over proposed changes to programs, information systems, and implementation of such programs and information systems, which cannot be resolved administratively.
5. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, there will be no more than one new program added per year.
- D. 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.
- E. The submission of lesson plans shall only be required for a member on a plan of growth or plan of improvement.
- F. 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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