**Teaching about Controversial Issues Policy 5026**

To prepare students to be responsible citizens, it may be necessary for students to study issues which are controversial to build and promote critical thinking. The student shall have the right to:

1. Study controversial issues, which are thought-provoking and have political, economic or social significance.
2. Have free access to all relevant information including materials dealing with community issues.
3. Study in a classroom free of bias and prejudice by providing multiple viewpoints.
4. Form and express his/her own opinions on thought-provoking issues without thereby jeopardizing his/her relationship with his/her teacher or his/her school.
5. Have the guidance of a teacher who:
   * is impartial andobjective;
   * promotes critical thinking through the presentation of multiple viewpoints;
   * selects materials suitable to the range, knowledge, maturity and competence of the student;
   * provides data concerning all aspects of the issue under discussion;
   * expresses opinions but informs students it is his/her opinion and not an authoritative answer;
   * brings out the facts concerning controversial questions;
   * and treats religious, moral, political affiliation, and ethical values and attitudes with respect and sensitivity.

All issues discussed within the classrooms will be relevant in terms of designated course content. Parents/Guardians/Students of KTEC HS shall have a right to complain to the school administration if they believe unfair and prejudiced classroom presentations are being made.

In no situation will a student be required to read printed material, see other audio-visual material, or listen to a speaker which relates to beliefs/issues/ideas that are contrary to the moral convictions of the students and/or the parents of a minor student.

The teacher who is in doubt concerning the advisability of discussing certain issues in the classroom is expected to consult with the principal. Similarly, the principal may consult with the teacher about these issues. If the teacher and principal are unable to agree, the issue may be referred to the Governance Board for action.

Adopted 8/23/21