

Resolution Protecting Academic Neutrality and Student Intellectual Freedom

Audience: Minnesota school boards and district leaders

A model resolution protecting academic evaluation from compelled political allegiance or unnecessary personal disclosure.

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that student academic grades shall be based on knowledge, skill, evidence, reasoning, communication, and completion of legitimate academic tasks. No student shall be required for academic credit to affirm or renounce a contested political, ideological, religious, moral, or identity proposition as a personal belief; to participate in real-world political organizing or advocacy; or to provide unnecessary sensitive personal disclosure when the intended competency can be measured without it.

Students may be required to accurately describe, compare, analyze, criticize, defend, or evaluate contested ideas. Neutral simulations such as mock elections, debates, hearings, budget exercises, and civic problem-solving may be required when they measure legitimate competencies.

This rule applies symmetrically across viewpoints. It does not prohibit teaching controversial ideas, difficult history, political movements, religion as an academic subject, or competing economic and social theories.

Purpose

The purpose is to protect rigorous instruction and student intellectual freedom at the same time: teach the ideas, assess the reasoning, and do not make personal allegiance the grading key.

Status: Draft framework; not adopted law. This model is intended for local review and adaptation consistent with applicable Minnesota and federal law.