

ARTICLE 10
ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND INSTRUCTION

10.1 Academic Freedom

10.1.1 Professional educators shall be guaranteed academic freedom in instructional presentations and discussions and in faculty discussions of education policy. Professional educators may introduce controversial materials provided such presentations, discussions, and materials are appropriate and relevant to course content and grade level subject to accepted standards of professional responsibility (see PPS Academic Freedom in the Instructional Program 6.20.011-AD as of 03-15-13). ***The parties acknowledge that the relevant Administrative Directives outline a process for reviewing concerns related to curriculum content. When the District receives such a concern, it will be processed as outlined in the relevant Administrative Directive.***

10.1.2 The District shall consult with professional educators over decisions regarding the selection of districtwide textbooks. Within generally accepted professional and content standards, professional educators are responsible for determining the supporting materials and methods used for day to day instruction, including differentiating instruction based on student needs.

10.2 Student Grades

Student grades issued by a teacher shall not be changed by a supervisor or altered due to software limitations of the District's grading system unless a substantive reason clearly exists. This Section shall not be interpreted to cause a teacher(s) to assign grades in any manner which deviates from general district-wide practices. If an administrator changes a student grade, such administrator will notify the teacher in writing of such change, and the reason(s) for such change.

10.3 The parties will convene a work group to evaluate and seek mutually agreeable policies and procedures regarding intellectual property issues.

10.4 Instructional Time

The District and Association recognize and value instructional time. To that extent the district commits to having a standardized assessment footprint that, as a target, aims to have the total average time of all district mandated standardized assessments to not exceed 0.65% of instructional time at each grade level as calculated by the district based on the assessment guidelines of each assessment provider. This does not include State and Federal assessments, and assessments chosen by educators to inform their instruction or required for identification or monitoring of special education services, eligibility or determination of English language proficiency.

10.5 Ownership of Materials and Publications: Unless otherwise provided by a separate contract, the respective rights of an employee and the District as to ownership of materials and publications developed by the employee are to depend upon the origins of the material in question, as follows:

10.5.1 If the materials were developed by the employee as a project commissioned by the District, or in fulfillment of a specific job assignment, the materials are the exclusive property of the District (e.g., a course outline developed by a TOSA for that purpose).

10.5.2 If the materials were developed by the employee independent of regular duties, and on the employee's own time and without use of District resources, the materials are the exclusive property of the employee (e.g., working at home, English teacher with personal interest in computers develops a software package for tracking and computing grades; or teacher writes textbook on own time, drawing upon prior District experience).