

Article 17

Academic Freedom

The LRCCD and LRCFT agree that academic freedom is essential for the fulfillment of the educational mission of the District and for the ability of faculty members to perform their professional duties. In addition, academic freedom ensures faculty member's rights and obligations of professional protection, autonomy and responsibility.

17.1 Professional Protections

Faculty members shall be protected from:

- 17.1.1 Censorship, restraint, or dismissal in their ability to study, investigate, present, interpret, or discuss the relevant facts and ideas within the assigned curriculum and outline;
- 17.1.2 Extraneous considerations such as a faculty member's ethnicity, race, religion, political beliefs or affiliation, sexual orientation, or disability being used in evaluations of professional performance.

17.2 Professional Autonomy

Faculty members have the principal right and responsibility to determine the methods of instruction, the planning and presentation of course materials, and the fair and equitable methods of assessment in their assignment in accordance with the approved curriculum and course outline and the educational mission of the District in accordance with state laws and regulations.

17.3 Professional Commitments and Obligations

All faculty members should:

- 17.3.1 Conduct a classroom environment that is conducive to student learning, growth, and development in which students are free from discrimination, prejudice, and harassment and in which students are free to express relevant ideas and opinions.
- 17.3.2 Clearly differentiate to students the expression of a faculty member's personal opinions or convictions from the objective presentation of theory, fact, or ideas.
- 17.3.3 Adhere to District procedures for using approved materials and resources.