## 570 – Individual Freedom in Public Education Policy



## **Section 1 - Maintaining constitutional freedom in the public schools:**

- 1. Except as provided in Section <u>53G-10-206</u>, any instructional activity, performance, or display which includes examination of or presentations about religion, political or religious thought or expression, or the influence thereof on music, art, literature, law, politics, history, or any other element of the curriculum, including the comparative study of religions, which is designed to achieve academic educational objectives included within the context of a course or activity and conducted in accordance with applicable rules or policies of the state and GWA may be undertaken.
- 2. No aspect of cultural heritage, political theory, moral theory, or societal value shall be included within or excluded from public school curricula for the primary reason that it affirms, ignores, or denies religious belief, religious doctrine, a religious sect, or the existence of a spiritual realm or supreme being.
- 3. GWA may not sponsor or deny the practice of prayer or religious devotionals.
- 4. GWA officials and employees may not use their positions to endorse, promote, or disparage a particular religious, denominational, sectarian, agnostic, or atheistic belief or viewpoint.

## **Section 2 - Educational freedom:**

- 1. GWA will provide an annual assurance to the state board that GWA's professional learning, administrative functions, displays, and instructional and curricular materials, are consistent with the following principles of individual freedom:
  - a. the principle that all individuals are equal before the law and have unalienable rights; and
  - b. the following principles of individual freedom:
    - i. that no individual is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, solely by virtue of the individual's race, sex, or sexual orientation;
    - ii. that no race is inherently superior or inferior to another race;
    - iii. that no person should be subject to discrimination or adverse treatment solely or partly on the basis of the individual's race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sex, or sexual orientation:
    - iv. that meritocracy or character traits, including hard work ethic, are not racist nor associated with or inconsistent with any racial or ethnic group; and
    - v. that an individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, does not bear responsibility for actions that other members of the same race or sex committed in the past or present.
- 2. Nothing in this section prohibits instruction regarding race, color, national origin, religion, disability, or sex in a manner that is consistent with the principles described in this section.
- 3. The state board or GWA may not:

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a.	Attempt to persuade a student or instructional or administrative personnel to a point of view that is
	inconsistent with the principles described in section 2 or

b.	Implement policies or programs, or allow instructional personnel or administrative personnel to
	implement policies or programs, with content that is inconsistent with the principles described in
	section 2.