
**Kern Community College District
Board Policy
Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs**

BP 4030 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

References:

Title 5 Sections 51023:

WASC/ACCJC Accreditation Standard I.C.7 and Accreditation Eligibility Requirement 20

NOTE: *The Board of Trustees is **legally required** to adopt a statement of academic freedom. The District should insert its current policy as developed collegially with the Academic Senate or collectively bargained, in this section.*

❖ **From current KCCD Policy 11E1 titled Respect for Persons and Academic Freedom**

Academic freedom enables both students and faculty the right to express their views in speech, writing, and through electronic communication without fear of sanction.

The discussion of controversial issues in the classroom is essential to the development of informed and responsible citizens. Instructors are to be encouraged to provide opportunities for the development of clear thinking, balanced judgement, intelligent choices, and an understanding of the methods and devices of propaganda.

11E1A The inherent dignity of all persons requires that we conduct ourselves with civility in all circumstances of our professional lives. This means that we do not participate in or accept, condone, or tolerate physical or verbal forms of aggression, threat, harassment, ridicule, or intimidation. The District is an institution of higher education and especially values a spirit of free inquiry and free speech. The District encourages the expression of a range of points of view, but we expect all expressions of content to be conducted in a manner respectful of persons. The District nurtures an atmosphere of mutual respect by treating everyone with dignity, even when the values, beliefs, or behavior of a person or group is different from our own. The District recognizes this foundation of mutual respect to be the basis of civil discourse in an academic environment. The genuine valuing of diversity serves to create the general atmosphere in which persons can thrive and realize their potential.

~~11E1B The District further protects the dignity of persons by maintaining the boundaries of both necessary and appropriate confidentiality, and by prohibiting the exploitation of all persons through sexual harassment or financial, professional, or any other form of exploitation. The District seeks to develop policies, procedures, and practices which are both compassionate and fair. In order to assure that we are fair in our policies, procedures, and practices regarding the dignity and worth of persons, the District specifically prohibits discrimination based on race, color, ethnic group identification, ancestry, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, and physical or mental disability. While this prohibition is necessary, it is the genuine valuing of diversity that serves to create the general atmosphere in which persons can thrive and realize their potential.~~

[Also see BP/AP 3900 Speech: Time, Place, and Manner](#)