The Board encourages the use of outside speakers and presenters when their program is educationally sound, consistent with the curriculum, and follows District policies and procedures.

All speakers must be invited with the school principal's approval. All materials provided or shown by outside speakers and presenters must, at a minimum, be previewed by the classroom teacher and it is recommended that they be previewed by the principal as well.

If the subject is controversial the principal may deny their request or engage speakers for both sides of the issue(s). In no instance shall a speaker be permitted to address the students:

1. who is known to advocate unconstitutional or illegal acts or procedures.
2. if the presentation is deemed to be in any way harmful to students.
3. if the material promotes a lifestyle or activities not in harmony with the generally accepted standards of the community.

Parents will be given the option to remove their student from controversial discussions or have them not attend. An alternative assignment may be given at an alternative location within the school.

Controversial Speakers

The Board recognizes that visiting speakers may be of specific persuasions, such as is the case with political standpoints, and that their topics may be controversial for some students. If they are prohibited from speaking because of their points of view, academic freedom is endangered. Students need to examine issues upon which there is disagreement and to practice analyzing problems, gathering and organizing facts, discriminating between facts and opinions, discussing differing viewpoints and drawing tentative conclusions. The Board also recognizes that many topics are not suitable for younger or less mature students. When correctly handled, the use of controversial speakers becomes a valuable component in accomplishing the goals of citizenship education. However, this places a serious responsibility on the professional staff members to correctly structure the learning situation involving a speaker.

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-512 Governance of schools