

Policy/Regulation Revisions

IB/STI IB-R/STI ACADEMIC FREEDOM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose:

To bring to the School Board the above proposed policy/regulation for adoption and first reading.

In an effort to keep the School Board Policy Books updated, members of the administration and the Southeast Tech policy review committee will continually review the policies and regulations for items that need to be added, deleted, revised, or in some cases, to update the language.

The policy/regulation has been reviewed by administration and the Southeast Tech Policy Review Committee.

Policy/Regulation IB/STI IB-R/STI Academic Freedom has been drafted to provide guidance for the campus community to promote excellence in teaching and learning and preserve freedom of expression.

The proposed policy/regulation IB/STI IB-R/STI Academic Freedom will require a second reading. It is posted for public review on the School District website and will return to the Board on July 8, 2019.

Policy Review Recommendation to School Board:

Acknowledge first reading of proposed policy/regulation IB/STI IB-R/STI Academic Freedom with the understanding that it will return for a second reading on July 8, 2019.



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4 **Policies and Regulations**

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6 **NEPN Code: IB/STI**

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9 **Academic Freedom**

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11 Southeast Technical Institute preserves an environment for excellence in teaching, learning, and
12 inquiry by sustaining freedom of expression, pursuit of knowledge, spirited and open debate, and
13 intellectual exchange. Academic freedom is vital to Southeast Tech’s shared goal of the pursuit of
14 knowledge, is fundamental to the exploration of new ideas, and is essential as we learn from one
15 another.

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17 Throughout the educational process, Southeast Tech will sustain an environment that allows for and
18 protects the greatest possible freedom of expression, encourages openness and discourse, and
19 supports rigorous inquiry. Southeast Tech will not attempt to filter ideas or viewpoints that others
20 may find disagreeable, unwelcome, or objectionable.

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30 Policy Board Action
31 adopted:

Policies and Regulations

NEPN Code: **IB-R/STI**

Academic Freedom

Definition

Academic freedom is an individual's right to engage in intellectual debate, research, speech, written or electronic correspondence, on and off campus, without fear of censorship, retaliation or sanction. Academic freedom encompasses both the individual's and Southeast Technical Institute's right to maintain academic standards and gives faculty members substantial latitude in deciding how to teach the courses to which they are assigned, encourage intellectual integrity, are appropriate to subject matter, sustain pedagogical approaches consistent with the discipline taught and evaluate student work. Academic freedom preserves the right of individuals to disagree with policies or procedures. Academic freedom includes the right for one individual to challenge the views of another individual.

Academic freedom does not involve expression that substantially impairs the rights of others or the imposition of political, religious, or philosophical beliefs on individuals of the Southeast Tech community. Academic Freedom does not provide protection of faculty who demonstrate professional ignorance, incompetence, or dishonesty with regard to their assigned discipline or fields of expertise, or who engage in arbitrary or capricious evaluation of students.

Complaint Procedure

Complaint resolution will be conducted according to the complaint resolution policy procedure in the Southeast Tech Employee Handbook or Southeast Tech Catalog as they apply.

Faculty Responsibilities

Faculty are expected to be accurate, objective, and purposeful. Material presented or discussed should be related to the course's subject matter. Faculty are expected to present and discuss assignments and material relevant to the student learning outcomes presented in the course outline. Faculty are responsible to set reasonable rules for appropriate classroom discourse, including limits to speech that is unrelated to class material or substantially impairs the rights of others.

Community Responsibilities

Throughout the educational process, members of the Southeast Tech community, which include faculty, staff, students, and guests are encouraged to participate in spirited and open debate as well as intellectual exchange. In the course of inquiry, individual members of our community may express viewpoints that other individuals may find disagreeable, unwelcome, or objectionable. All individual members of the Southeast Tech community also bear the responsibility to distinguish those behaviors that may violate Southeast Tech's student or employee Code of Conduct. Verbal harassment of, or threats directed toward, any member of the community, breach of peace on institute property or at any institute-sponsored function in a manner that disturbs the privacy of other individuals and/or the

1 instructional program, violation of institute regulations or policies, and breach of any federal, state,
2 or local criminal law, either on campus or at any institute-sponsored activity, are examples of
3 individual conduct violations that are not protected under the Academic Freedom Policy.

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Board Action