

## ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

### SECTION I INSTRUCTION

#### **FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

This Policy relates to information and educational resources provided by the Academy for use by staff and students. The Board recognizes the need for staff and students to access a wide range of information and educational resources for learning experiences and expresses good faith in their accessing information and educational resources that are reasonable and appropriate for those learning experiences. The Board believes that freedom of access to information and educational resources carries with it great responsibility for all staff and students to exercise good judgment in selecting and using resources. The Board expects decisions to be grounded in the mission, beliefs, objectives and learning standards of the Academy and to reflect a commitment to responsible use of the information and educational resources.

By this policy the Academy does not assume the obligation to provide unlimited access to information and educational resources.

This policy cannot be used to appeal a supervisory decision regarding the appropriateness of resources. This policy supports the Board policy on Academic Freedom (IB).

#### **CHALLENGE PROCEDURE**

The Freedom of Access to Information Committee for reviewing challenges to information and educational resources provided by the Academy shall be appointed by the Principal. The Committee will consist of one faculty member, one student life representative, one member of information resources/systems, the Vice President for Strategy and Results (chair) and an administrator who supervises staff and operations in the area in which the challenge resides.

1. To file a challenge, an individual must submit the challenge in writing to the Vice President for Strategy and Results stating the specific resources to which the individual objects and stating the reason(s) for the objection.
2. When the written challenge is received, the Vice President for Strategy and Results will notify the Freedom of Access to Information Committee and other staff as appropriate.
3. Based on this policy and any other applicable institutional policies and guidelines, the Committee will review the challenge, gather additional information as needed, determine the merit of the challenge and decide what

action(s) will be taken to resolve the challenge. The Committee's review will be conducted in a timely manner.

4. The Vice President for Strategy and Results will inform all involved parties in writing of the Committee's decision.
5. Any of the involved parties may appeal the Committee's decision by submitting a written appeal to the Principal within five business days of receiving the Committee's decision. The Principal will review the challenge and the decision of the Freedom of Access to Information Committee and will render a final decision on the matter. The Principal will inform all involved parties in writing of the final decision.

**APPROVED: March 25, 1996**

**AMENDED: July 11, 2000**

**AMENDED: July 7, 2004**