Instruction

SCIENCE INSTRUCTION

A scientific fact is an understanding based on confirmable observations and is subject to test and rejection. A scientific hypothesis is an attempt to frame a question as a testable proposition. A scientific theory organizes and explains a range of natural phenomena on the basis of facts and hypotheses. Scientific theories are constantly subject to testing, modification and refutation as new evidence and new ideas emerge.

From time to time, natural science teachers are asked to teach content that does not meet the criteria of scientific fact, hypothesis and theory as these terms are used in natural sciences and defined in this policy. As a matter of principle, science teachers are professionally bound to limit their teaching to science and shall resist pressure to do otherwise.

Philosophical and religious theories are based, at least in part, on faith, and are not subject to scientific test and refutation. Such beliefs shall not be discussed in science classes, but may be addressed in the social science and language arts curricula.

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

SITKA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Implementation Date: February 6, 1996