

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board reserves to itself the final responsibility for all instructional materials used and curricula taught in the district schools. The Board recognizes that without a free and vigorous exchange of ideas, learning and teaching cannot take place effectively.

The Board also recognizes that district residents have a right to express concern about the educational programs of their schools. When citizens have concerns about particular courses or instructional materials, these concerns should be stated in writing, carefully considered, and accorded the courtesy of a prompt reply by school personnel. All such replies will be based on the instructional goals of the district, upon course objectives, and upon the criteria for selection of instructional materials.

Staff members will attempt to accommodate serious religious or moral objections to particular instructional materials by providing alternate materials whenever possible. Regarding objections to certain library materials that are not a part of the curriculum or instruction, the parent/guardian may limit their child's access to those materials, without limiting the access of other students, by completing a Library Materials Opt-Out form. However, attempts by parents or students to control what others read and study will be subject to careful scrutiny and question by school employees and the Board.

Complaints against instructional materials will be considered a most serious matter and will be processed in a very deliberate manner using the following procedures, step by step.

1. The material in question should first be discussed with the teacher or librarian who will report the results of this meeting to the principal.

If satisfaction is not reached, the complainant may continue with Step 2.

- ~~2.~~ The principal will meet to discuss the material with the complainant and the teacher or librarian. The results of the meeting will be reported to the superintendent/CEO. If satisfaction is not gained, the complainant will be given the form, "Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials," to fill out and return to the principal and superintendent/CEO before proceeding to Step 3. A separate form must be completed for each material challenged, and each complaint will be reviewed individually.

3. The superintendent/CEO will appoint a review committee composed of the following members:

- The building principal.
- The building librarian.
- Two building teachers.
- Three adult citizens.

The committee members will review the completed form submitted by the complainant and will read or view the challenged material in its entirety. They will read reviews of the material from professional sources and review in full the materials and not form opinions based on isolated segments or images. The committee will respond to the complainant's answers to the questions on the form, "Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials." The committee may recommend by simple majority, by anonymous vote, that the questioned material be retained,

moved to a different level, or not retained. The recommendation of the committee will be sent to the complainant by the Superintendent. If the complainant is not satisfied, he may continue with Step 4.

4. The Superintendent/CEO will meet with the complainant to resolve the problem. If an impasse has developed, the matter is to be directed to the Board in Step 5.
5. The School Board will review the recommendation of the review committee and examine all documentation prior to reaching a decision. Board members are encouraged to read the challenged materials. The decision of the Board is the final step in the request for reconsideration of instruction materials.

The challenged material will continue to be used during the reconsideration process, unless the superintendent/CEO suspends its use.

Decisions on reconsidered materials will stand for three (3) years before new requests for reconsideration of those items will be entertained.

Three (3) years must pass before material that has been censored or banned can be reinstated, or considered for reinstatement. After that time, the board may entertain by a parent/guardian, student, citizen, librarian, or other district employee to consider reinstatement of the materials previously banned or censored.

Legal References:

POLICY IIA Instructional materials
POLICY IIAA Textbook selection and adoption
POLICY IIAC Library materials selection and adoption

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