

Public Concerns/Complaints about Instructional Resources

Criticism of a book or other materials used in the schools may be expected from time to time. In such instances:

1. The Board recognizes the right of an individual parent to request his/her child not read a given book. When such a request is presented, the teacher and/or school administrator should resolve the situation by arranging for the use of alternative materials meeting essentially the same instructional purpose. This does not apply, however, to adopted programs.
2. The Board shall not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections, but recognizes that at times a re-evaluation of certain materials may be desirable.

Guidelines for Filing a Formal Complaint

Only parents of a student enrolled in the district, students enrolled in the district, residents of the district, vendors conducting official business with the district, and/or employees of the district may file a formal complaint. Should an individual or group meeting the above criteria ask to have any book, topic of discussion or other material withdrawn from school use the following guidelines shall apply:

- a. An individual meeting the above criteria with a concern should contact the person at the building or department level who is responsible for the instructional material in question. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the individual may proceed to step "b."
- b. The person objecting to the material shall complete a complaint form to the Superintendent.
- c. Following receipt of the formal complaint the Superintendent shall provide for re-evaluation of the material in question.
- d. Should the re-evaluation be unsatisfactory to the complainant, the Superintendent shall refer the material to an appropriate committee composed of teachers, parents and administrators.
- e. The committee will review the complaint and conduct an additional re-evaluation. The committee shall render a decision on the matter to the Superintendent.
- f. Should the solution be unsatisfactory to the complainant; he/she may appeal the decision to the Board. The Board will review the recommendation from the review committee in an open meeting to determine if the process and criteria were adhered to.
- g. Following the final decision on that matter, should the solution be unsatisfactory regarding this text, a new complaint of the same text can be submitted after one calendar year.

It shall be emphasized that a book or other materials shall not be excluded for any basis protected by federal and state law including disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin,

religion, or ancestry. The value of any book or other material shall be judged as a whole, taking into account the purpose of the material, rather than individual, isolated expressions or incidents in the work.

Adopted: August 14, 1986
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CROSS REFS.: IJ, Instructional Resources and Materials
IM, Teaching about Controversial Issues and Use of Controversial Materials