

COMPLAINTS ABOUT CURRICULA OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility for the selection of instructional materials. The Board expects district teachers and administrators to recommend books and other materials in accord with sound educational principles and practices, and to use them effectively in the classrooms. However, the Board also recognizes the right of community members to voice concerns and/or complaints regarding the implementation of a particular curriculum and/or instructional material.

Any criticism of instructional materials that are in the schools that cannot be resolved informally shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent of Schools, in accordance with the procedures specified in 1420-R. A District Curriculum Committee, consisting of an administrator, a librarian, a teacher and a parent of a student enrolled in the district, will be designated by the Superintendent to investigate and judge the challenged material.

The committee shall make recommendations to the Superintendent concerning the disposition of the complaint, and the Superintendent will issue a decision. This decision may be appealed to the Board, and the decision of the Board shall be final.

Cross-ref: 4511, Textbook Selection and Adoption
4513, Library Materials Selection

Ref: Education Law §§1709(15); 1711(5)(f)
Board of Educ., Island Trees UFSD v. Pico, 457 US 853 (1982)

Adoption date: June 12, 2001

COMPLAINTS ABOUT CURRICULA OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS REGULATION

The following procedures shall apply to the handling of complaints concerning any textbook, library book or material and any other instructional material used in district schools. While complaints are being considered, the challenged material shall remain in use until a final decision has been rendered.

1. When a person has a complaint concerning a textbook, library book or other instructional material and protests its use in class or its availability in a school library, that person shall consult with the Building Principal. The Principal may hold an informal meeting with the complainant, a school librarian, and three teachers to discuss the matter.
2. If the complaint is not resolved informally, the complainant may file a formal written complaint with the Superintendent of Schools on a form provided for this purpose. The Superintendent will forward the complaint to the Board.
3. Within 30 days of receiving the formal written complaint, the Board may request the Superintendent to reevaluate the materials in question through the District Curriculum Committee.
4. The Superintendent and the Board shall designate the District Curriculum Committee to investigate and judge the challenged material. The Committee shall consist of the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Personnel as chairperson, and four other members of the professional staff, selected by the Superintendent, competent in the questioned field. The Board shall select two other district residents specifically interested in school curriculum materials. These people shall neither be personally involved with the issue in dispute, nor be employed by the district, nor be members of the Board.
5. The committee shall:
 - a. read and examine the challenged materials;
 - b. consider the specific objections to the material voiced by the complainant;
 - c. weigh the values and faults of the material as a whole;
 - d. consider the best interests of the student, curriculum, and district;
 - e. consider oral presentations made to the committee, if any;
 - f. where appropriate, solicit advice or opinion from other district faculty and/or relevant professional organizations such as the American Library Association, the National Council of Teachers of English, National Council of Social Studies Teachers; and
 - g. issue a report to the Superintendent containing its recommendations concerning any complaint.
6. The Board shall make a final determination based on: the report of the committee, the recommendation of the Superintendent, and any other additional data it may consider necessary. The Superintendent shall notify the complainant and appropriate staff.

Adoption date: June 12, 2001

**COMPLAINTS ABOUT CURRICULA OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
EXHIBIT**

**REQUEST FOR REEVALUATION OF
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

Request initiated by _____

Date _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Complainant represents: Self _____ Group _____

If Group (name) _____

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

Publisher or Producer: _____

Publisher's recommended grade level: _____

Book _____ AV material (please specify format) _____ Other _____

1. Have you read/heard/seen the material in its entirety? _____
2. To what do you specifically object? Please cite specific passages, pages, etc.

3. Is your objection to this material based upon your personal exposure to it, upon reports you have heard, or both?

4. What do you believe is the theme or purpose of the material?

5. What do you feel might be the result of reading/ viewing this work?

6. In its place, what work of equal value would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of a society or a set of values?

7. Do you wish to make an oral presentation of 15 minutes or less to the District Curriculum Committee? _____

Signature

Date

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