

**COMPLAINTS REGARDING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The Board recognizes that opinions may differ on the appropriateness of any given instructional materials and equipment. Occasionally an individual or group may find instructional materials used in the schools which conflict with their views. Any resident of this district shall have the right to present a request, suggestion or complaint in reference to the physical plant, playgrounds, subject matter or instructional materials.

The superintendent shall develop procedures to give careful consideration to such requests, suggestions or complaints. These procedures must provide that:

- A. All such requests, suggestions or complaints be in writing;
- B. Whenever possible the process be initiated and solved at the lowest effective level;
- C. District response be courteous and prompt;
- D. Successive steps of appeal and mechanisms for review are available when necessary.

The use of challenged materials or equipment by class or school shall not be restricted until a final decision has been reached.

The final decision on controversial reading matter shall rest with the board after careful examination and discussion of the book or reading matter with school officials or others the board may wish to involve.

**Date: Reviewed: June 18, 2008**

**Adopted: September 17, 2008**

**Legal References:** Use legal reference sheet.

**Key Words:** Instructional Materials, Complaints Regarding Instructional Materials, Complaints, Censorship

**Legal References**

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**Other Reasons:**

Instructional materials include equipment as well as texts, audiovisuals, etc. Only the board can remove a textbook from the district's curriculum. School authorities can authorize replacement of an optional book by another. Censorship is a very sensitive local issue.

**Recommendation:**

A policy directing consideration of community or parent/guardian complaints about instructional materials and authorizing the superintendent to develop regulations for processing them.

**Legal References:**

Board of Education Island Trees U.F.S.D. v. Pico, 457 U.S. 853 (1982)

**Possible Cross** \*131 Community complaints and inquiries

**References:**

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2220 Representative and deliberative groups

\*614 Controversial issues

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\*616 Guidelines for evaluation and selection of instructional materials

1.1

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.