



PARENTAL INSPECTION AND OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Policy Code: 3210

In Board policy 3200, Selection of Textbooks and Supplementary Materials, the Board establishes a process for the selection of instructional materials that meets State Board requirements and the educational goals of this Board. This process provides an opportunity for parental input in the selection of materials.

The Board recognizes that despite the opportunity to participate in the selection of materials, parents still may have concerns about instructional materials used in the school district. Thus, to further involve parents in the education of their children, the Board also provides opportunities for parents to review instructional materials and to object to the use of materials.

Parents have a right under federal law to inspect all instructional and supplementary materials used in connection with any applicable federally funded programs. Parents also may review all other instructional materials following procedures provided by the school.

Parents may submit objections to the principal regarding the use of instructional materials. The principal may establish a committee to review the objection. While input from the community may be sought, the Board believes professional educators are in the best position to determine whether a particular instructional material is appropriate for the age and maturity of the students and for the subject matter being taught.

If the principal or the committee determines that any material violates constitutional or other legal rights of the parent or student, the principal or the committee will either remove the material from instructional use or accommodate the particular student and parent. If any material is removed, the principal or the committee will ensure that the curriculum is still aligned with the Standard Course of Study and articulated from grade to grade. If an objection made by a parent or student is not based upon constitutional or legal rights, the principal or the committee may accommodate such objections after considering the effect on curriculum, any burden on the school, teacher or other students that the accommodation would create, and any other relevant factors.

The decision of the committee or principal may be appealed to the Superintendent. The decision of the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board.

INSPECTION PROCESS

If a complaint is made regarding instructional materials, these procedures should be followed.

- A. Provide the complainant a copy of the selection procedures. Be courteous, but make no commitments.
- B. Invite the complainant to file his/her objection in writing and offer to provide a copy of the **Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Educational Material** form for submitting a formal complaint to the Media Advisory Committee.

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- C. Temporarily withdraw the material pending a decision of the Media Advisory Committee unless the material in question is in use by a class at the time the complaint is filed. In this case, an alternate assignment shall be made available to the complainant, while the remainder of the class will be allowed to continue study of the material, pending a decision of the Committee.
- D. Inform the Superintendent and media supervisor of the complaint.
- E. The Media Advisory Committee will:
- re-examine the challenged material;
 - check appraisals of the materials in professional reviewing sources;
 - determine the extent to which the material supports the curriculum;
 - weigh values and faults against each other to form opinions based on the material as a whole and not on passages isolated from context;
 - discuss the material and prepare a written recommendation to the principal; and
 - inform the Superintendent and media supervisor of the decision.
- F. Material rejected by the Committee will be removed from the school collection, upon approval of the Superintendent.
- G. Final decisions of the Superintendent shall be delivered to the complainant and affected staff members in writing.

USE OF IRREGULAR MEDIA

Occasionally there may be a justifiable instructional need to use media or materials not in a media or school collection mainly because of recent publication. To use a television broadcast, videocassette, book, or other instructional material not in a school collection, a teacher must submit a **Request for Use of Irregular Media** form to the principal for approval prior to instructional use.

Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. I; 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (Supp. 1995); N.C. Const. art. I, § 14; G.S. 115C-45, -47, -81, -101

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Curriculum Development (policy 3100), Selection of Textbooks and Supplementary Materials (policy 3200)

Adopted: 04/12/99