

## **Review of Challenged Instructional Materials**

### **REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

The review of instructional and/or library materials, including textbooks, supplementary materials, library books, audiovisual media, class content, and technology based on citizen concerns will be conducted in response to a properly filed request. Forms for such requests will be made available to any resident of the District at the Principal's Office. The request shall include a statement of reason for objection and a statement of desired action regarding the material.

In the event of a citizen complaint regarding instructional and/or library materials, freedom of information and professional responsibility shall be the guiding principles. The use of challenged material may be restricted until final disposition has been made. However, individuals may be assigned other materials in lieu of those being challenged.

### **REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Superintendent/designee shall establish a Review Committee, composed of the Principal, professional librarian(s), two (2) staff members as designated by the Principal and whose subject area is affected, and two (2) parents. All committee members shall represent the school receiving the complaint.

The following steps shall be taken by the Review Committee:

1. Review the specific written complaint.
2. Read and/or examine the materials in question.
3. Determine general acceptance of the challenged materials in the community, other school systems and professional media.
4. Discuss the complaint and merit of the challenged material; make a value judgment based on the materials as a whole, and not on parts taken out of context.
5. Determine the merit of potential alternative instructional materials.
6. If the complaint involves media center materials to which students have optional access consider factors such as educational suitability, artistic merit, age appropriateness, and matters of community taste in light of work as a whole. Mere disagreement with ideas contained in material under consideration should not be the determinative factor in the committee's decision.
7. Prepare a recommendation for disposition of the complaint.
8. File a written decision with the Principal and/or school council, as appropriate, and send a copy to the Superintendent/designee.

The Principal shall inform the complainant in writing of the decision within ten (10) school days after receipt of the completed form.

### **APPEAL**

Within ten (10) school days after the complainant has been informed of the committee's decision, the complainant may appeal the decision, in writing, to the Superintendent/designee.

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**APPEAL (CONTINUED)**

Upon receipt of the appeal, the Superintendent/designee will review the challenged material and the decision of the Review Committee and, within ten (10) school days, notify the complainant and Principal of his/her determination.

Within ten (10) school days after the complainant has been informed of the decision of the Superintendent/designee, the complainant may appeal the decision, in writing, to the Board.

The Board will consider the appeal at a regularly scheduled Board meeting and so notify the complainant of its final decision regarding the challenged material.

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