

POLICY

2022

Community Relations

COMPLAINTS ABOUT CURRICULA OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board of Education, though it is ultimately responsible for all curriculum and instructional materials (including library books), recognizes the need for the free access to many different types of books and materials. It also recognizes the right of the professional staff in selecting books and other materials supportive of the school district's educational philosophy and goals.

The Board will 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.

All complaints concerning textbooks, library books and other instructional material shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent shall promulgate regulations subject to Board approval establishing a complaint procedure which shall include:

1. an opportunity for an informal conference with the complainant;
2. the submission of formal written complaints on a prescribed form;
3. the formation of an instructional material review committee. The members of the committee shall be appointed annually by the Board on recommendation by the Superintendent. The committee shall make recommendations to the Superintendent concerning the disposition of any complaint;
4. a decision by the Superintendent; and
5. an appeal to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final.

If the Superintendent's decision is to remove a book or alter the curriculum or otherwise take action upon the complaint, they shall notify the Board of their decision. The final decision shall rest with the Board.

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

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

Adoption date: July 2003

Revised/Adopted: November 16, 2022

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