

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.

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, the Building Principal shall hold an informal meeting with the complainant and the teacher, librarian, or other staff member who is using or providing the book or material. At this meeting, the complainant will be asked to make clear his or her objection to the material; the teacher or librarian will be asked to explain the educational value of the material.

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.

Upon receiving a formal written complaint, the Superintendent shall designate an Instructional Review Committee, consisting of an administrator, a librarian, a teacher and a parent of a student enrolled in the district, to investigate and judge the challenged material.

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 oral presentations made to the committee, if any;
- e. 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
- f. issue a report to the Superintendent containing its recommendations concerning any complaint.

The Superintendent shall review the report of the committee, make a decision and notify the complainant and appropriate staff. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision he/she may refer the complaint to the Board. The Superintendent will deliver a copy of his/her decision and the committee's report to the Board for its consideration. The final decision shall be made by the Board.

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)
Appeal of Smith, 34 Educ. Dept Rep. 346 (1994)

Adoption date: June 4, 2002
Effective: July 1, 2002

**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 Materials Review Committee? _____

Signature Date

Adoption date: June 4, 2002

Effective: July 1, 2002