

## PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

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

Criticism of a book or other materials used in the school may be expected from time to time. In such instances:

1. If a parent requests that his own child not read a given book, the teacher and/or school administrator should resolve the situation, perhaps by arranging for use of alternative material meeting essentially the same instructional purpose.
2. 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 material may be desirable. Should an individual or group ask to have any book or other material withdrawn from school use:
  - a. The person who objects to the book or other material will be asked to sign a complaint on a standard form on which he will document his criticism.
  - b. Following receipt of the formal complaint, the superintendent will provide for a re-evaluation of the material in question. He will arrange for the appointment of a review committee from among the faculty and community to consider the complaint.
  - c. The superintendent will review the complaint and the committee's re-evaluation and will render a decision in the matter. Should the decision be unsatisfactory to the complainant, he may appeal it to the board.

In summary, the board assumes final responsibility for all books and instructional materials it makes available to students; it holds its professional staff accountable for their proper selection. It recognizes rights of individual parents with respect to controversial materials used by their own children; it will provide for the re-evaluation of materials in library collections upon formal request. On the other hand, student's right to learn and the freedom of teachers to teach will be respected.

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3329.07; 3329.08;3329.09

CROSS REF.: IIA, Instructional Materials  
 IIAA, Selection and Adoption of Textbooks  
 IIAC, Selection and Adoption of Library Materials  
 INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues