

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board of Trustees takes great care in the adoption of instructional materials and is aware that all adopted materials may not be acceptable to all students, their parents/guardians or other district residents.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures which will permit proper consideration of any complaints against the use of any instructional materials, including textbooks, supplementary textbooks, library books, and other instructional materials and equipment.

The Board believes the Superintendent and staff are well qualified to consider complaints concerning instructional materials. Complainants are advised to consider and accept the Superintendent or designee's decision as final. However, if the complainant finds the decision of the Superintendent or designee unsatisfactory, he/she may request that the matter be placed on the agenda of a regular Board meeting.

The Board's decision in any such case will be based on educational suitability and will not be influenced by a desire to suppress information or deny students access to ideas with which the Board disagrees.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Complaints concerning instructional materials will be accepted only from staff, district residents, or the parents/guardians of children enrolled in a district school.

Complaints must be presented in writing to the principal. Complaints regarding printed material must name the author, title and publisher, and identify the objection by page and item numbers. In the case of nonprinted material, written information specifying the precise nature of the objection shall be given. The statement must be signed and identified in such a way that a proper reply will be possible.

Individual students may be excused from using challenged materials after the parent/guardian has presented a written complaint. The teacher will then assign the student alternate materials of equal merit.

Upon receiving a complaint, the principal will acknowledge its receipt and answer any questions regarding procedure. The principal will then notify the Superintendent and the teacher(s) involved of the complaint. The Superintendent will determine whether the complaint should be considered on an individual basis or whether a review committee should be convened.

The use of challenged materials shall not be restricted until final disposition has been made by the appropriate review committee.

A review committee may be formed under the direction of the Superintendent. It shall be composed of the principal and five or more staff members selected by the Superintendent from relevant administrative and instructional areas.

In deliberating challenged materials, the review committee shall consider the professional opinions of teachers of the subject, the professional opinions of other competent authorities, reviews of the materials by reputable bodies, the teacher's stated objectives in using the materials, and the objections of the complainant.

The review committee shall determine the extent to which the challenged material supports the curriculum, the educational appropriateness of the material, and its suitability for the age level of the student.

Within 30 days of being convened, the review committee shall summarize its findings in a written report and submit it to the Superintendent for final action. The Superintendent shall notify the complainant of his/her decision no later than 60 days after the complaint was filed.

The report of the review committee together with the Superintendent' recommendation may be brought to the Board of Trustees for consideration and final decision.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

When any challenged instructional material is reviewed by the district, it shall not be subject to any additional reconsideration for 12 months.

State-Adopted Material

If the questioned material has been adopted by the State of California, the Superintendent or designee may forward the complaint, without action, to the California Department of Education for reevaluation and decision.