



Resolution Clarifying Scope and Procedure of Instructional Material Review

Whereas, the St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors envisions a school system where students are seen and valued and become their best selves as racially conscious, globally minded contributors to society, and seeks to align its actions with organizational core values, including advocacy for equity;

Whereas, the St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors is committed to ensuring that the district's learning communities honor and respect the identities of all of our students, families, staff and broader community, including diverse gender identity and gender expression;

Whereas, St. Louis Park Public Schools is committed to ensuring broad representation of social groups and diverse identities in our educational materials, which supports student learning and creates a sense of belonging, connection, authenticity and identity;

Whereas, the St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors is proud of our district's literacy program, which includes books with racially and culturally diverse families and characters as well as LGBTQ+ families and characters;

Whereas, St. Louis Park Public Schools has always complied with the state law regarding parents' statutory right to review curriculum and seek alternative instructional materials;

Whereas, St. Louis Park Public Schools [Policy 604](#) (Instructional Curriculum), [Policy 606](#) (Textbooks and Instructional Materials), and related [Procedures](#) are based on state law and have been in place for many years;

Whereas, St. Louis Park Public Schools passed a [Resolution](#) on August 10, 2020 focused on the School Board's commitment to equity and anti-racism wherein the Board committed to "working with our local governmental agencies and community to strengthen the collective work of creating an inclusive school community for our students, families and staff";

Whereas, St. Louis Park Public Schools will continue to comply in good faith with relevant state law;

Now therefore be it resolved by the School Board of St. Louis Park Public Schools (Independent School District No. 283), as follows:

1. Pursuant to [Minnesota Statutes, Section 120B.20](#), St. Louis Park Public Schools is required to "have a procedure for a parent, guardian, or an adult student, 18 years of age or older, to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a minor

child or to an adult student and, if the parent, guardian, or adult student objects to the content, to make reasonable arrangements with school personnel for alternative instruction.”

2. The term “instructional materials” is not defined in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 120B, which regulates Pre-K - 12 Curriculum and Assessment.
3. In the absence of a statutory definition, St. Louis Park Public Schools defines “instructional materials” as print- and technology-based educational materials, including printed and digital textbooks and related core materials, regardless of format (e.g., print, digital, graphic, audio, video), developed for educational purposes for students. This definition is consistent with the definition used in [materials provided by the Minnesota Department of Education](#).
4. Instructional materials do not include teacher lesson plans, notes, incidental or spontaneous teaching items, classroom discussions, seat assignments, classroom or school decor, library materials that are not being used for instruction, classroom collections of choice books, the demographics or identity of school staff, and the demographics or identity of other students or families. This list is provided for purposes of examples and is not exhaustive.
5. As used in this resolution, the term “protected class” means race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability. These are protected classes under the [Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 363A](#).
6. As required by [Minnesota Statutes, Section 120B.20](#), and [School Board Policy 604](#) (Instructional Curriculum), St. Louis Park Public Schools has a [Procedure](#) for a parent, guardian or adult student to review the content of instructional materials, to object to this content, and to make reasonable arrangements for alternative instruction.
7. Requests for alternative instruction (opt out requests) based on the representation of protected classes in anything other than the content of instructional materials, as defined above in paragraphs 3 & 4, are not required by law and will not be allowed by St. Louis Park Public Schools.
8. The St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors provides the following guidance on the procedure and scope of instructional material review:
 - a. A parent, guardian or adult student may request to review instructional materials, as defined above in paragraphs 3 & 4, at any time;
 - b. A parent, guardian or adult student may object to the content of specific instructional material(s), as defined above in paragraphs 3 & 4, and make reasonable arrangements with school personnel for alternative instruction;
 - c. Objections to the content of instructional material(s) must be specific to instructional material(s) that have been reviewed and identified pursuant to paragraphs 8(a) & (b) above, blanket objections to content and representation of

protected classes, that are not specific to reviewed and identified instructional material(s) will not be accepted;

- d. If a parent, guardian or adult student objects to the content of instructional materials, as defined above in paragraphs 3 & 4, staff will engage with the parent, guardian or adult student in an attempt to understand the objection and to provide clarity on the use and purpose of the instructional material(s), and to make reasonable arrangements for alternative instruction if the objection is not otherwise resolved;
 - e. Alternative instruction may be provided by the parent, guardian, or adult student if the alternative instruction, if any, offered by St. Louis Park Public Schools does not meet the concerns of the parent, guardian, or adult student;
 - f. St. Louis Park Public Schools will not pay for the costs of alternative instruction provided by a parent, guardian, or adult student.
 - g. St. Louis Park Public Schools will not impose an academic or other penalty upon a student merely for arranging alternative instruction;
 - h. St. Louis Park Public Schools staff may evaluate and assess the quality of the student's work;
 - i. Staff will not conduct a review of instructional materials on behalf of any parent, guardian or adult student;
 - j. Staff will not attempt to determine what content of instructional materials may be objectionable to any parent, guardian or adult student or provide advance notice of specific instructional material content in this context.
9. The St. Louis Park Schools Board of Directors expects that instructional materials may be updated throughout the school year to be responsive to the educational needs of students, current events, etc.
- a. If a parent, guardian or adult student requests to review instructional materials they will be provided the most up to date instructional materials, as defined above in paragraphs 3 & 4, available at that time and will be informed that they may request to review the instructional materials again in the future if they wish to see updated instructional materials.
 - b. If a parent, guardian or adult student requests to review instructional materials again, the most up to date instructional materials, as defined above in paragraphs 3 & 4, as of the date of the new request will be made available for review in compliance with the previously discussed procedure.

Let it further be resolved that:

1. The St. Louis Park Schools Board of Directors believes that to the extent that [Minnesota Statutes, Section 120B.20](#) allows parents, guardians or adult students to seek alternative instruction based upon representation of protected classes in instructional materials, it conflicts with the [Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 363A](#);



2. Allowing opt-outs based on representation of protected classes in instructional materials does not uphold St. Louis Park Public Schools core values of creating safe and inclusive learning and working environments in our schools;
3. The St. Louis Park Schools Board of Directors calls upon the Minnesota State Legislature to modify [Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 120B](#) in a manner that clarifies that representation of protected classes in instructional materials can not be a basis for seeking alternative instruction.
4. The St. Louis Park Schools Board of Directors calls upon Minnesota Governor Walz to support and sign legislation to modify [Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 120B](#) in a manner that clarifies that representation of protected classes in instructional materials can not be a basis for seeking alternative instruction.