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Public Concerns/Complaints about Instructional Resources & Materials

Instructional Resources & Materials will be described as any book, material, or resource used in the classroom or available in the school library.

The Board has approved principles governing the selection of all Instructional Resources and Materials and has established policies pertaining to the selection process. However, the Board wishes to amplify its principles on the potential need to reevaluate books and other materials which present controversial topics or which for other reasons might be challenged.

Material that is challenged usually belongs to one of the three basic categories: religion, ideology, or profanity/obscenity. Materials or resources in these categories will be judged based on the age appropriateness, the alignment of said material to the curriculum, and the educational value contained within.

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

1. The Board recognizes the right of a parent/guardian to request that their child not read a given book. When such a request is presented, the teacher and/or school administrator should resolve the situation, perhaps by arranging for use of alternative materials meeting essentially the same instructional purpose. This does not apply, however, to basic program texts and materials that the Board has adopted.

2. The Board will not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over Instructional Resources and Materials but recognizes that at times a re-evaluation of certain materials 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 Should an individual or group ask to have any book or other material withdrawn from school use: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 complete a “request for reconsideration” form (KEC-E) on which that person will document the criticism. According to C.R.S. 22-1-148 (4)(c), only a parent of a student enrolled in a public school where the library resource exists may request a reconsideration of library resources. Other members of the community may communicate concerns regarding library resources directly to the Chief Academic Officer. Additionally, other instructional resources or materials may be suggested for reconsideration

by students, staff, or community members. Such a form will be sent to the principal or Chief Academic Officer, who will then send ~~with~~ a copy to the Superintendent.

b. Following receipt of the formal complaint, the Chief Academic Officer will bring the material to the Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) for further analysis and review.

c. A recommendation by the CRC will be provided to the Superintendent and Board upon completion of a thorough review by the CRC, which will address age-appropriateness, alignment to the curriculum, and whether the material has educational value. Additionally, the Board wishes to emphasize that:

i. A book will not be excluded because of the writer's race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, or political or religious views.

ii. The value of any book or other material will be judged as a whole, taking into account the purpose of the material rather than individual, isolated expressions or incidents in the work.

d. The Board will review the complaint and the CRC's recommendation and will render a decision in the matter.

In summary, the Board assumes final responsibility for all books and instructional materials it makes available to students. It recognizes the rights of individual parents/guardians with respect to controversial materials used by their own children. It will provide for the reevaluation of Instructional Resources and Materials upon formal request.

CROSS REFS.: IJ, Instructional Resources and Materials
IMB, Teaching about Controversial Issues and Use of Controversial Materials