

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM
OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board recognizes and shall respect the need and right of students to free access to many different types of books and materials. The Board also acknowledges the educational value of introducing students to varied types of ideas, literature, and learning materials. The Board supports the right of the District's professional staff to recommend and select books and other materials consistent with the Board's educational philosophy and goals. The Board has final responsibility for the purchase and selection of all books and instructional materials made available to students.

In circumstances where a parent, member of the community, member of the District's professional staff, or other person has objections or wishes to express criticism of a book or other instructional materials used in the District, the following guidelines shall apply:

1. If a parent requests that his/her own child not read a particular book, the teacher and/or school administrator must address and should resolve the issue in an appropriate manner. Resolution of the issue may require arrangements for the child to use an alternative material that meets essentially the same instructional purpose.

2. The Board shall not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections, but may engage in updating and re-evaluating materials. Should any individual or group request to have any book or other material withdrawn from school use, the following steps must be taken:

A. The person requesting withdrawal of the book or material shall be requested to sign a complaint form stating the objection to the book or material that shall be submitted to the school principal or school administrator;

B. Upon receipt of the complaint form, the principal or school administrator shall forward the form to the Chief Academic Officer. The Chief Academic Officer may convene a review committee that shall contain members from the District faculty and community who shall consider the complaint and make a recommendation to the Chief Academic Officer.

The Chief Academic Officer shall review the complaint and the committee's recommendation and render a decision in the matter.

Should the complaining party be dissatisfied with the decision, the decision may be appealed to the full Board. The Board, in its sole discretion, may decide not to hear a complaint.

When considering complaints filed through the above process relative to books currently existing in school library collections, the Board shall be guided by the principle that having created the privilege of a library for the benefit of District students, the Board, and any individual or group, may not place conditions on the use of the library which are related solely to the social or political tastes of Board members.

[Adoption date: September 6, 2001]

LEGAL REFERENCES

Ohio Revised Code Sections 3329.01, 3329.08, 3329.09