

Handling Questions Concerning 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 district's educational philosophy and goals.

The board has approved principles governing the selection of all instructional material including library books, and has established policies pertaining to the selection process. However, since opinions concerning the usefulness and merits of books and audio-visual materials, which have been selected may differ, the following procedures are observed in recognizing those differences in an impartial and factual manner.

1. Questions concerning books, audio-visual materials and request for reevaluation must be presented in writing on KEC-E-1 to the Committee for the Review of Instructional Materials. This form may be obtained from the Librarian, Principal's Office or the Office of the Superintendent.
2. Superintendent shall establish committees for the review of Instructional Materials broadly representative of 1) Teacher(s) competent in, and teaching in the area of content covered by the book or audio-visual material, 2) library/media specialist(s), 3) administrator(s) including a principal, director of curriculum, and the assistant superintendent, and 4) representative citizen(s).
3. Initial action on a written request on the proper form shall be taken as quickly as possible after receipt of the request, but not to exceed 30 working days.
4. A written report from the review committee shall be submitted to the Superintendent for transmittal to the person who has requested the reevaluation. The results of the committee and superintendent's evaluation may be appealed to the Board of Education.
5. Textbooks approved by the Board of Education shall not be subject to reevaluation for a period of one year following their purchase and use.
6. Once instructional material has been adopted and reevaluated, the material cannot be subject to further review without special approval by the Board of Education.
7. The Board of Education may request that instructional material be evaluated by a committee or recognized scholars. Such a committee shall be selected by the Superintendent in consultation with representatives of appropriate institutions.
8. Questioned materials shall remain in use in the schools pending final decision.

The Board recognized the right of an individual parent to request that his own 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 material meeting essentially the same instructional purpose. This does not apply, however, to basic program texts and materials that the Board has adopted.

The Board shall not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional material and library collections.

Delta County School District 50J

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CROSS REFS.: IJ, Instructional Resource Selection and Adoption
KEC, Public Complaints about Curriculum