

Lower Merion School District

Policy No.: 119
Section: PROGRAMS
Title: CONTROVERSIAL AND VALUE ISSUES/
OBJECTIONS TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
Date Adopted: 2/22/93
Date Revised: 10/20/14

**119 CONTROVERSIAL AND VALUE ISSUES/
OBJECTIONS TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

It is believed that the essence of education should often transcend traditional curricular offerings or include as a part of the ongoing curriculum topics or issues, which, by their very nature are controversial. The introduction of controversial issues, however, is often neglected or dealt with only on a limited basis in order to avoid possible repercussions. In addition, the broader question of values, in general, as a worthy intellectual pursuit, is often similarly neglected. As a response to the possible void in the education of the youth of Lower Merion and to provide a mechanism for addressing objections to instructional materials when they arise the following policy is adopted:

The term "instructional materials" shall refer to any material with instructional content or function that is used for formal or informal teaching/learning purposes.

The Board is committed to the incorporation into the ongoing curriculum ideas that may transcend traditional curricular topics and raise questions about current social, political, technical, philosophical, religious, and other problems, regardless of the controversial nature of the topic as long as, on divided issues, differing views are carefully presented.

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee is responsible for assuring that the aforementioned ideas, topics and areas are incorporated into the ongoing curriculum.

No professionally selected materials shall be removed from the school except upon the recommendation of a review committee with the concurrence of the Superintendent and the Board, or upon formal action of the Board when a recommendation of a review committee is appealed.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to be observed if objections are made to instructional materials. Parents/guardians who wish to object to instructional materials or to their child participating in any part of the curriculum should follow the procedures set forth in these regulations.