

Maryville City Schools
Administrative Procedure 4.403
Reconsideration of Instructional Materials and Textbooks

This procedure offers guidance in the event that someone from the community questions the appropriateness of a title in a school library collection or instructional materials.

Guiding Principles

- Parents do not have the right to determine reading, viewing, or listening for students other than his or her own child(ren).
- Maryville City Schools supports the Library Bill of Rights adopted by the American Library Association (Appendix A). When resources are challenged, the principles of the freedom to read/listen/view are challenged as well.
- Access to challenged materials will not be restricted during the reconsideration process.

The school receiving a complaint regarding a title shall try to resolve the issue informally:

- The principal or other appropriate staff will explain to the questioner the district's selection procedure, criteria, and qualifications of those persons responsible for selection.
- The principal or other appropriate staff will explain how the material in question is used.

If the questioner is not satisfied with this explanation and wishes to file a more formal challenge, he/she will be given a "Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials" form (Appendix B). The questioner is requested to read the entire material that is being questioned before completing this form. All formal complaints will be addressed in writing, and a written response will be made to the questioner who initiated request for reconsideration.

Appendix A

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries that make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

Although the Articles of the Library Bill of Rights are unambiguous statements of basic principles that should govern the service of all libraries, questions do arise concerning application of these principles to specific library practices. See the documents designated by the Intellectual Freedom Committee as Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights.

Taken from <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>

What do you believe the theme and purpose of this item are?

Is your objection to this material based upon your personal exposure to it, reports you have heard from others, or both?

What do you feel might be the result of a student reading/listening to/watching this material?

Do you think this item has any merit? Please explain _____

Have you read any professional reviews of this item? _____

For what specific population or age group do you believe this item would be appropriate?

What would you like the school to do with this item?

- Do not assign or circulate it to your child(ren).
- Withdraw it for all students as well as your child.
- Make it available only to those who wish to use it.
- Other (please specify) _____

What item of equal educational quality would you recommend on the same subject and format to take its place?

Signature: _____ Date _____