

# Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in November</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Reconsideration of Instructional Materials and Textbooks</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>4.402</b>	Issued Date: <b>08/08/22</b>
		Rescinds: <b>IFAD; 4.403</b>	Issued: <b>07/08/13</b>

If a complaint is filed by a parent/guardian, employee, or student regarding textbooks or instructional materials, the following process is to be followed:

1. Inform the complainant of the selection procedures and make no commitments.
2. Request the complainant to submit a formal *Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials* form.
3. Inform the principal (and other appropriate personnel).
4. Keep challenged materials available for use during the reconsideration process. The materials shall be removed immediately if they:<sup>2</sup>
  - a. Were created to align exclusively with Common Core; or
  - b. Are marketed or otherwise identified as Common Core textbooks or instructional materials.
5. Upon receipt of the completed form, the principal shall notify the Director of Schools
6. The principal shall request review of the challenged materials by an ad hoc materials review committee within fifteen (15) working days. The review committee is appointed by the principal, and includes representatives from classroom teachers, one or more parents, and may include one or more students. The principal will inform the Director of Schools of the review committee's progress.
7. The review committee shall take the following steps after receiving the challenged materials:
  - a. Read, view or listen to the contested material in its entirety;
  - b. Check general acceptance of the material by reading recognized and evaluative reviews;
  - c. Determine the extent to which the material supports the curriculum;
  - d. Complete the appropriate *Checklist for Reconsideration of Textbook and Instructional Materials*, judging material for its strength and value; and
  - e. Present recommendation to principal for further action and to the Director of Schools for purposes of information.
8. If the complainant desires further action after receiving the recommendation of the committee and the decision of the principal, an appeal may be made to the Board.

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Legal References

1. *Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853, 102 S. Ct. 2799 (1982)
2. TCA 49-1-302(a)(8); TCA 49-1-314; TCA 49-6-2206; Public Acts of 2022, Chapter No. 1085

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Cross References

Instructional Standards 4.101  
Textbooks and Instructional Materials 4.400  
School and System Websites 4.407  
Controversial Materials 4.801