

## PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Indian River School Board recognizes the need and right of students to free access to many types of books and materials. It also recognizes the right of the professional staff to recommend books and other materials supportive of the school district's educational programs. While the Board will not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections, it recognizes that at times objections to instructional materials may occur despite the care taken to select those materials. When such objections occur, the Board recognizes that a re-evaluation of those materials may be desirable.

All such complaints received by teachers or staff by letter, telephone, or personal contact should be referred to the building principal. If the complainant desires to file a formal complaint, the complainant must complete the form "Public Complaints About the Curriculum and Instructional Material." Upon receipt of a request for reconsideration, the principal will attempt to resolve the complaint at the building level or forward the formal complaint to the appropriate Director and the Assistant Superintendent. The Director of Elementary Education and/or Director of Secondary Education will convene the Curriculum Committee to review the material in question and the complaint. While the complaint is being reviewed, the materials will remain in use. In addition, a brief synopsis of the complaint will be provided to the Board through the Superintendent. The Committee will report its findings and make a recommendation to the Superintendent no longer than 45 calendar days after the complaint is filed. The Superintendent will review the complaint and will render a decision in the matter. Notice of the decision will be sent to the complainant. If the citizen is not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision, the complainant may appeal to the Board of Education by writing to the President of the Board within five working days. The Board will hear the appeal at its next regular or special meeting and render its decision.

The Board assumes final responsibility for all books and instructional materials it makes available to students and holds its professional staff accountable for proper selections.

Regulations to implement this policy will be established by the Superintendent and compiled in the District Administrative Manual.

Adopted 11/28/89  
Revised 4/27/93, 5/19/15, 9/24/18, 1/23/23