

**DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Darien, CT**

**Series 6000**

**Policy 6220**

**Challenges to Instructional Materials**

The Darien Board of Education (the “Board”) believes that students should have access to a wide range of instructional materials at varying levels of difficulty that represent different points of view. Despite the care taken to select worthwhile materials and the qualifications of teachers selecting and recommending materials, occasional objections may be made. Any parent or guardian of a current student in the Darien Public Schools, enrolled in the school in which the challenged material is being used, or an employee of the Board may raise such an objection. The Superintendent shall establish a procedure for reconsideration of the challenged materials.

ADOPTED: October 24, 2023

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**Instruction**

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**Procedure for Challenges to Instructional Materials**

The following procedure will govern any challenge to instructional materials:

1. The complainant will identify themselves and the specific nature of the complaint. The complainant must be either a parent of a current student in the Darien Public Schools enrolled in the school in which the challenged material is being used or an employee of the Darien Board of Education.
2. The complainant will first speak with the educator(s) involved, seeking resolution of the issue.
3. Failing satisfactory resolution of the issue with the educator, the complainant will meet with the building principal or designee.
4. Failing satisfactory resolution of the issue at the building level, the complainant will file a formal written complaint with the Superintendent on the form attached to this Policy as Appendix A.
5. The Superintendent will notify the Chairperson of the Board of Education (the "Board") of the receipt of the complaint and appoint the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction as the Chairperson of the Superintendent's Review Committee (SRC), which will conduct a review of the challenged materials.

The committee will consist of:

- a. the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction (the "Chairperson");
  - b. the President of the Darien Education Association (the "DEA") or designee;
  - c. the President of the Darien Administrators' Association (the "DAA") or designee;
  - d. no more than three teachers, representing level and department or specialization germane to the complaint, who will all be appointed jointly by the Superintendent and the president of the DEA. If good faith efforts by the Superintendent and the president of the DEA to agree on these appointments shall fail after a reasonable period of time, the Superintendent shall make these appointments to the committee;
  - e. no more than three parents or guardians of current students in the Darien Public Schools enrolled in the school level in which the challenged material s being used, to be appointed by the Superintendent at random.
5. The Chairperson will schedule a hearing of the SRC with the parties to the complaint no later than 30 calendar days after receipt of the written complaint. Both the educators involved in the selection of the challenged materials and the Complainant will be given an opportunity to be heard and to be questioned by members of the SRC
  6. The SRC will render an evaluative judgment and recommendation, in writing, to the Superintendent no later than 10 calendar days after the completion of the hearing.
  7. Within ten calendar days of receipt of the SRC's recommendation, the Superintendent will render a disposition, in writing, to the Complainant, the members of the SRC and the Board and will disseminate the decision to the school community at the level in which the challenge occurred.
  8. Access to the challenged materials shall not be restricted during the challenge process. Challenged materials, once judged appropriate, shall be reviewed, if challenged again, only if the Superintendent determines that circumstances so warrant.

ADOPTED: October 23, 2023

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**APPENDIX A**  
**Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you an employee of the Darien Public Schools? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you have a child in the school in which the material is being challenged? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Title of the Instructional Material being challenged: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Type of material being challenged (book, film, pamphlet): \_\_\_\_\_
6. Author of Material (if known) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Please describe your objection to the material. Please be specific. Cite words, pages and the nature of the content:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Describe the nature of your objection to the material:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Are you requesting that this material be removed from the schools? If not, please describe the remedy that you are seeking.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Please list all teachers and/or administrators that you have spoken with about the material:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Complainant's signature below signifies that he/she has read or otherwise viewed the challenged material.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Complainant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date