

Reconsideration of Instructional Materials

Reconsideration Process

Step 1: Complainant will contact teacher or library media personnel with oral complaint. Complaint may be resolved at this level.

Step 2: The teacher or library media specialist will bring the complaint to the attention of the building principal who shall schedule a meeting between the parties to discuss the matter. If the matter is regarding an individual need surrounding the material, an alternative resource may be determined for the student, as appropriate. Complaint may be resolved at this level.

Step 3: If the complaint is not resolved during this meeting, the principal shall provide the complainant with the "Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials" form. A copy of the item under consideration may be given to the concerned party for review. The complainant must review the entire work. The item must be returned and the borrower will be billed for replacement cost if the item is not returned.

Step 4: The complainant should return the form to the building principal within 10 working days after the meeting. The principal will forward the form to the Assistant Superintendent within 5 working days with a summary of the process to that point. Material(s) shall remain in use pending the outcome of the request for reconsideration process. If the complainant does not meet the recommended time limits, they waive their right to move the complaint to the next level.

Step 5: Within 15 working days of receipt of the form requesting reconsideration of the selection of the material, the Assistant Superintendent will assign a committee chairperson who will form a District Materials Review Committee. The committee will be charged with reconsidering the selection of the material in question in light of the concerns of the complainant. The 15 working day timeline may be extended by a mutual agreement of the complainant and the Assistant Superintendent.

The committee may request input from additional instructional and/or administrative staff if the selection or use of the material involves a specific grade level, content area, or students with special needs, as well as call on expertise in the community.

The committee will meet as needed to hear the complaint and reconsider its selection for use in the District.

District Materials Review Committee Membership

A standing District committee will be formed to handle requests for reconsideration of classroom and/or library materials. The Assistant Superintendent will appoint a committee chair. The committee chair will facilitate the selection of the District committee with input from various groups (e.g., District principals, District library media specialists, District teachers, Parent

Advisory Groups such as PACs and PTOs). This committee will meet only as needed. The committee may include the following:

1. Assistant Superintendents
2. Library Media Director
3. Indian Education Director
4. Elementary Principal
7. Middle School Principal
8. High School Principal
9. Elementary Library Media Specialist
10. Middle School Library Media Specialist
11. High School Library Media Specialist
12. Elementary Teacher
13. Middle School Teacher
14. High School Teacher
15. PTO/PAC Representative—Elementary
16. PTO/PAC Representative—Middle School
17. PTO/PAC Representative—High School
18. Staff Development/Teaching and Learning Representative
19. Additional community members as needed

Procedure for Reconsideration by the District Materials Review Committee

1. All members of the committee will receive a copy of the request with any supporting materials the complainant and the District submit.
2. All members of the committee will read/view the entire work.
3. The committee will meet with the complainant who will present concerns about its selection and use.

4. The material in question will be reconsidered in light of the District's selection criteria (Policy GAAD and/or GAADA), rationale for selection by District personnel, reviews from accepted sources, general acceptance of the material, as well as concerns from the complainant.
5. The committee will determine the process by which it will make a decision on the selection and use of the material in question.
6. The committee's deliberations will be open.
7. The committee will make a decision on the selection and use of the material in questions. The committee chair will prepare a committee report, which will be signed by members of the committee. A letter of notification of the committee's decision will be sent to the complainant within 10 working days of the committee's decision. It will include a copy of the committee report.
8. A copy of the report will be sent to the principal and instructor or librarian of the building where the reconsideration request originated.
9. A copy of the report will be on file in the offices of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and the Library Media Director.

Appeal of District Committee's Decision on Reconsideration of Challenged Materials

If either the individual who initiated a request for reconsideration or the instructor or librarian who made the initial material selection chooses to appeal the committee's decision, a request to do so should be submitted in writing to the office of the Superintendent within 15 days of receiving the committee's decision. The Superintendent will review the materials and the committee decision. Following review, the Superintendent will have 30 days to uphold or overturn the decision of the committee. A final appeal is allowed in a special meeting of the School Board. The Board will have 30 days to schedule and make a final decision. The decision of the Board in matters of selection is final.

If the deadlines listed in this process are past, any individual involved in the complaint waives their right to move the process to the next level.