

Community Relations

Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials

The Board of Education uses a comprehensive process to adopt District instructional materials that is based on selection criteria established by law and Board policy and includes opportunities for the involvement of District staff, parents/guardians, and community members, and, as appropriate, students. Complaints concerning the content or use of instructional materials, including textbooks, supplementary instructional materials, library materials, or other instructional materials and equipment, shall be properly and fairly considered using established complaint procedures.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss any concerns regarding instructional materials with their child's teacher and/or the school principal. If the situation remains unresolved, a complaint may be filed using the process specified in the administrative regulation.

The District shall accept complaints concerning instructional materials only from staff, District residents, or the parents/guardians of children enrolled in a District school. (Education Code 35160) However, a complaint that alleges unlawful discrimination based on a violation of Education Code 243 shall be filed, investigated, and resolved in accordance with Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

When deliberating upon challenged materials, the Superintendent, or any designee or committee established to review the materials, shall consider the degree to which the materials aligned with the criteria for instructional materials as specified in law, Board policy, and administrative regulation, the educational philosophy and vision of the District, the educational suitability of the materials including the manner in which the materials support the curriculum and appropriateness for the student's age; the professional opinions of teachers of the subject and of other competent authorities and/or experts, reviews of the materials by reputable bodies, the teacher's stated objectives in using the materials, community standards, and the objections of the complainant. Complainants are encouraged to accept the Superintendent's or review committee's decision. However, if the complainant finds that decision unsatisfactory, he/she may appeal the decision to the Board.

The District's decision shall be based on educational suitability of the materials and the criteria established in law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

When any challenged instructional material is reviewed by the District, it shall not be subject to further reconsideration for 12 months, unless the Superintendent determines that reconsideration is warranted.

Complaints related to sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials shall be resolved as specified in Administrative Regulation 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

220 Prohibition of discrimination

242 Access to information about educational laws and policies regarding right to accurate and inclusive curriculum

243 Unlawful discrimination related to the use or prohibited use of textbooks and instructional materials

1240 County superintendent of schools; duties

18111 Exclusion of books by Governing board that are sectarian, partisan, or denominational character

35010 Control of District; prescription and enforcement of rules

35160 Powers and duties of school boards

35186 Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures

44805 Teacher enforcement of course of studies; use of textbooks, rules and regulations

48907 Exercise of free expression; time, place and manner rules and regulations

48950 Speech and other communication

51204.5 Social sciences instruction; contributions of specified groups

51501 Nondiscriminatory Subject matter

51511 Religious matters properly included in courses of study

51933 Sexual health education and HIV prevention materials

60000-60005 Instructional materials, legislative intent

60040-60052 Requirements for Instructional

60119 Public hearing on sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials

60200-60213 Elementary school materials

60226 Requirements for publishers and manufacturers

60400-60411 High school textbooks and instructional materials

60510-60511 Donation of sale of obsolete instructional materials

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures