

Public Concerns/Complaints about Instructional Resources

The Board of Education recognizes the right of individuals and groups to present legitimate concerns about educational materials in the schools. The board also recognizes the right of an individual parent to request that his/her own child not read a given book. When such a request is presented, the teacher and/or school administrator should resolve the situation, perhaps by arranging for the use of alternative materials meeting essentially the same instructional purpose. This does not apply, however, to basic program texts and materials that the Board has adopted.

In the interest of handling complaints objectively and expeditiously, the following procedures shall be followed.

Any individual or group who is a resident of the Weld Re-9 School District or any individual who is the parent or legal guardian of a student in the Weld Re-9 School District which questions any educational material shall submit his/her concerns to the teacher or media specialist as appropriate at the school involved. Should the problem not be resolved at the level of occurrence, the principal of the school shall be contacted.

The school principal and teacher or media specialist as appropriate shall hold a conference with the complainant. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the result of the conference, the principal shall inform him of the procedures for further consideration of his/her objection. The principal shall provide the complainant with a copy of this policy and a form which the complainant shall fill out and return to the principal if the complainant wished to appeal to the building level review committee.

Building Level Review

The building level review committee shall consist of the principal, a teacher appointed by the principal, a representative appointed by the official school parent group, and others deemed appropriate by the principal. The principal or his/her designee shall serve as committee chairman.

The principal shall advise the complainant, the teacher or media specialist, and the committee of the time and place of the committee meeting. Other persons may address the committee at its request.

The committee shall review the complainant's objections to the material and the challenged material as set forth on the written form. A written summary of the committee's decision and rationale shall be provided to the complainant within 30 school days of the time the request for reconsideration was received. If the citizen is not satisfied with the recommendation of the building level review committee, he/she may appeal the decision to the Superintendent.

District Level Review

The Superintendent shall appoint a review committee composed of educators and lay persons with experience at the same level as the school where the complaint was filed. The Superintendent shall serve as chairman. The committee shall not exceed seven persons.

The committee shall review the complainant's objections to the material. A written summary of the committee's decision and the rationale shall be provided to the complainant within 30 school-days from the date the written request for appeal has been received by the Superintendent.

Should the solution be unsatisfactory to the complainant, he/she may appeal to the Board by providing a written request for review of the Superintendent's decision. The Board will consider the matter at its next regular Board meeting. The final decision shall rest with the Board.

Second Challenge

If the same material is challenged at a future date, the principal shall examine the previous decision in light of additional points of view. If there is any significant difference in the new challenge, the building level review committee may again review the material. Otherwise, the original decision shall stand, and a copy shall be sent to the complainant explaining that the material previously had been evaluated.

Adopted: November 28, 1989

Revised: June 27, 2023

CROSS REFS.: IJ, Instructional Resources and Materials
IMB, Teaching about Controversial Issues