

Liberty Union High School District

Board Policy

Classification: Community

Policy No. BP 1312.2

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Effective 8/21/85

Subject: Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials

Revised 5/14/25

The Governing Board 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 with the district office.

The district shall accept complaints concerning instructional materials only from staff, district residents, or the parents/guardians of students enrolled in a district school. (Education Code 35160)

However, a complaint related to the use or prohibited use of any existing textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library that alleges unlawful discrimination based on a violation of Education Code 243 or 244 shall be filed, investigated, and resolved in accordance with Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

When deliberating upon challenged materials, the Superintendent or designee or committee established by the Superintendent 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. In addition, such deliberations may consider 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 stated objectives in using the materials; community standards; the allegations in the complaint, including the extent to which the objections are based on the dislike of ideas contained in the materials; and the impact that keeping or removing the materials would have on student well-being.

The Superintendent or any designee or committee established by the Superintendent to review the materials, shall not prohibit the continued use of an appropriately adopted textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library on the basis that it contains inclusive and/or diverse perspectives, as specified in Education Code 243.

Additionally, the Superintendent, or any designee or committee established by the Superintendent to review the materials, shall not authorize the continued use of an adopted textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or curriculum for classroom instruction if the use would subject a student to unlawful discrimination pursuant to Education Code 220.

If the complainant finds the Superintendent's or review committee's decision unsatisfactory, the complainant may appeal the decision to the Board.

Any challenged instructional material that is reviewed by the district shall not be subject to further reconsideration for 12 months, unless required by law.

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

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

<u>State</u>	<u>Description</u>
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
Ed. Code 1240	County superintendent of schools; duties
Ed. Code 18111	Exclusion of books by Governing board that are sectarian, partisan, or denominational character
Ed. Code 220	Prohibition of discrimination
Ed. Code 240-244	Prohibition of discrimination; instructional materials
Ed. Code 35010	Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules
Ed. Code 35160	Powers and duties of school boards
Ed. Code 35186	Williams uniform complaint procedures
Ed. Code 44805	Teacher enforcement of course of studies; use of textbooks, rules and regulations
Ed. Code 48907	Exercise of free expression; time, place and manner rules and regulations
Ed. Code 48950	Speech and other communication
Ed. Code 51204.5	Social sciences instruction; contributions of specified groups
Ed. Code 51501	Nondiscriminatory subject matter
Ed. Code 51511	Religious matters properly included in courses of study
Ed. Code 51933	Sexual health education and HIV prevention materials
Ed. Code 60000-60005	Instructional materials; legislative intent
Ed. Code 60040-60052	Requirements for instructional materials
Ed. Code 60119	Public hearing on sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials
Ed. Code 60200-60213	Elementary school materials
Ed. Code 60226	Requirements for publishers and manufacturers
Ed. Code 60400-60411	High school textbooks and instructional materials
Ed. Code 60510-60511	Donation or sale of obsolete instructional materials

<u>Management Resources</u>	<u>Description</u>
California Department of Education Publication	Guidance for Local Instructional Materials Adoption, March 2024
California Department of Education Publication	Instructional Materials, FAQ
California Department of Education Publication	Standards for Evaluating Instructional Materials for Social Content, 2013
California Department of Justice Publication	Guidance to School Officials re: Legal Requirements for Providing Inclusive Curricula and Books, Legal Alert, Jan. 2024
California School Boards Association Publication	State Roles, Responsibilities, and Process for Instructional Materials Adoption, Feb. 2024
California School Boards Association Publication	Instructional Materials Adoption: Local governing board responsibilities, Fact Sheet, Feb. 2024
California School Boards Association Publication	Instructional Materials Adoptions: State and local governing board processes, roles and responsibilities, Feb. 2024
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	Department of Justice

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Website California Department of Education, Curriculum and Instruction Resources

Website CSBA

Website U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights

Cross References

Code

Description

0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
1100	Communication With The Public
1250	Visitors/Outsiders
1250	Visitors/Outsiders
1312.1	Complaints Concerning District Employees
1312.1	Complaints Concerning District Employees
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(1)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(2)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.4	Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.4-E(1)	Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.4-E(2)	Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
6000	Concepts And Roles
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6142.6	Visual And Performing Arts Education
6142.92	Mathematics Instruction
6142.94	History-Social Science Instruction
6143	Courses Of Study
6143	Courses Of Study
6144	Controversial Issues
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1-E(1)	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.11	Supplementary Instructional Materials
6161.2	Damaged Or Lost Instructional Materials
6163.1	Library Media Centers
9000	Role Of The Board
9005	Governance Standards
9012	Board Member Electronic Communications
9200	Limits Of Board Member Authority
9322	Agenda/Meeting Materials