

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The St. Mary Parish School Board strongly encourages the utilization of a wide variety of materials and equipment in the instructional program. The selection of media shall be determined by the objectives of the course and the experiences and activities to be provided to meet such objectives. Instructional personnel shall keep abreast of the types of materials and equipment which can contribute toward meeting the goals and objectives of courses. Instructional personnel shall also assist the administration in the selection and purchase of such materials and equipment for the school.

The School Board believes that appropriate personnel and materials must be available for each student. It shall be the policy of the School Board that available system resources be allocated in a manner to ensure equivalence among schools of a similar type and enrollment in: (1) teachers, administrators and auxiliary personnel; and (2) curriculum materials and instructional supplies.

PARENTAL ACCESS TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A parent of a child attending a public elementary or secondary school shall be entitled to access to instructional materials as provided by law. A parent shall be entitled to:

1. Review instructional materials used by or administered to the parent's child.
2. Review any survey before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student.

The Superintendent and/or his/her designee shall develop and maintain pertinent administrative regulations and procedures governing parental access to instructional materials. At a minimum, such regulations and procedures shall specify reasonable hours for in-person review, and that access to instructional materials, including online access, shall be provided upon request of the parent. If a parent requests a paper copy of material that can be readily copied using school equipment, such copy shall be provided. The rules shall establish reasonable and customary fees to be collected by the school to cover the cost of providing such copies.

No fee shall be charged to a parent for in-person viewing of their child's instructional materials if the parent does not request that copies are made of those materials.

No fee shall be imposed when a parent accesses instructional materials online.

No other provision of law or School Board policy shall prohibit or interfere with the parent making his/her own copies on school premises using any mobile or other device capable of making copies.

The principal of each school shall ensure that the school complies with such rules.

For the purpose of this policy:

Instructional materials means content that conveys the knowledge or skills of a subject in the school curriculum through a medium or a combination of media for conveying information to a student. It also includes any survey administered to a student. The term also includes books, supplementary materials, teaching aids, computer software, magnetic media, DVD, CD-ROM, computer courseware, online material, information, or services, or an electronic medium or other means of conveying information to the student or otherwise contributing to the learning process.

Parent means the parent or legal guardian of a child.

Survey means any evaluative instrument or questionnaire that is not an assessment of academic knowledge, skills, or abilities, administered as part of a state, national, or international assessment or by itself.

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING CRITICISM OF MATERIAL

Criticism of specific materials should be handled by the principal whenever possible. If the criticism cannot be resolved by the principal to the satisfaction of the complainant, then the following procedures shall be followed.

1. The criticism shall be presented in writing and directed to the principal and shall include specific information as to author, title, publisher, and the reason for the criticism, giving specific examples of objectionable aspects or sections of the book.
2. The statement must be signed and identified so that a reply may be given.
3. The material shall be reviewed in the light of the objections by a committee appointed by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
4. The report of the special committee shall be forwarded to the Superintendent for action as rapidly as possible. The Superintendent may choose to refer the problem to the School Board.
5. The decision of the Superintendent and/or the School Board shall be sent in writing to the complainant. Copies of the decision shall also be sent to all staff personnel affected by the decision.

New policy: November 13, 2014

Revised: September 11, 2025

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Revised: December 10, 2015

Ref: Constitution of Louisiana, Art. VII, §13; La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:81, 17:355; Board minutes, 11-13-14, 12-10-15, 9-11-25.