

PARENTAL INSPECTION OF AND OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Policy Code:

3210

In policy 3200, Selection of Instructional Materials, the board establishes a process for the selection of instructional materials to meet State Board of Education requirements and the educational goals of the board. That process provides an opportunity for parental input in the selection of materials.

The board recognizes that despite the opportunity to participate in the selection of materials, parents still may have concerns about instructional materials used in the school system. Thus, to further involve parents in the education of their children, the board also provides opportunities for parents to review instructional materials and a process for parents to use when they object to instructional materials.

For purposes of this policy, all references to “parent” include a parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other caregiver adult authorized to enroll a student under policy 4120, Domicile or Residence Requirements.

A. PARENTAL RIGHT TO INSPECT MATERIALS

Parents may review all instructional materials, as defined in policy 3200, Selection of Instructional Materials. Instructional materials do not include academic tests or assessments. Parents who would like to inspect and review instructional materials should make a request in writing to the principal identifying the instructional materials the parent is seeking to inspect. Within 10 business days of receiving the request, the principal shall either (1) provide access to the requested information or (2) provide an extension notice to the parent that, due to the volume or complexity of the request, access to the information will be provided no later than 20 business days from the date of the parent’s request. Access will be provided by supplying the parent with a copy of the materials or by scheduling a mutually agreeable date and time for the parent to come into the school to review the materials. All materials used in reproductive health and safety education shall be available for review as provided in policy 3540, Comprehensive Health Education Program.

B. PARENTAL OBJECTION TO MATERIALS

Parents may submit an objection in writing to the principal regarding the use of particular instructional materials. The principal may establish a committee to review the objection. While input from the community may be sought, the board believes professional educators are in the best position to determine whether a particular instructional material is appropriate for the age and maturity of the students and for the subject matter being taught.

If the principal or the committee determines that any material violates constitutional or other legal rights of the parent or student, the principal or the committee shall either remove the material from instructional use or accommodate the particular student and parent. (For

religious-based objections, also see policy 3510, Religious-Based Exemptions from School Programs.) Before any material is removed, the principal or the committee shall ensure that the curriculum is still aligned with current statewide instructional standards and articulated from grade to grade. If an objection made by a parent or student is not based upon constitutional or legal rights, the principal or the committee may accommodate the objection after considering the effect on the curriculum; any burden on the school, teacher, or other students that the accommodation would create; and any other relevant factors. Books and other instructional materials may be removed from the school media collection only for legitimate educational reasons and subject to the limitations of the First Amendment. The decision of the committee or principal may be appealed to the superintendent. The decision of the superintendent may be appealed to the board.

Any request by a student's parent that the student be prohibited from borrowing certain library books will automatically be granted. The request must be made in writing to the principal and identify by title the library book(s) that the student may not borrow. For purposes of this policy, library books are defined as all instructional materials, other than textbooks, that are available at a school, whether in the school library or in a classroom or other space, for independent use by students and school personnel outside of the standard course of study for any grade or course. The titles of all library books at a school may be accessed through a searchable web-based catalog displayed on the homepage of the school's website.

The superintendent shall develop the necessary administrative procedures to implement this policy.

Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. I; 20 U.S.C. 1232h; N.C. Const. art. I, § 14; *Board of Educ. v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982); G.S. 115C art. 8 pt. 1; 115C-45, -47, -76.25(a)(5), -76.35(b), -76.40, -98, -98.1, -101

Cross References: Parental Involvement (1310/4002), Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Curriculum Development (policy 3100), Selection of Instructional Materials (policy 3200), Religious-Based Exemptions from School Programs (policy 3510), Comprehensive Health Education Program (policy 3540), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120)

Adopted: April 11, 2016

Revised: April 9, 2018 (Legal references only); November 6, 2023; January 12, 2026

Replaces: Board policy 4.02.40, Selection of Educational Resources, Sections V and VI