



PRESENTS

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

August 6, 2025

Public Act 25-168 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027, and Making Appropriations Therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget

CABE's policy department hopes you are all enjoying some time away this summer to recharge your batteries, reflect on last year's challenges and successes, and prepare for a new school year. Over the past several weeks, we've been updating and developing new policies to remain current with actions of the 2025 legislative session.

Perhaps the most significant volume of policy requests has come from districts asking for our model policies related to Public Act 25-168, sections 321-323 devoted to school libraries. While districts subscribed to our Quarterly Policy Updates will receive these and other updates shortly, I thought this Highlight would provide an appropriate vehicle for sharing these new model policies to assist in your board/superintendent deliberations.

Public Act 25-168 §§ 321-323 requires school boards and public library governing boards to adopt policies on *collection development and maintenance, library displays and programs, and review and reconsideration of library books and materials*.

The Act mandates that all school boards adopt a Collection Development and Maintenance Policy to serve as the standard against which library material complaints are evaluated. Furthermore, this policy directs superintendents to create administrative regulations that establish a procedure for a certified school library media specialist to continually review library and other educational material within a school library media center. The Act goes on to require that the standards set in the regulation include the material's *relevance, physical condition* of the material, *demand* for the material, *availability* of copies, and more recent *age or grade-appropriate* material.

CABE's policy department has created a Collection Development and Maintenance policy ([P6161.13/1312.4](#)) in accordance with the Act, along with an accompanying regulation that lays out specific standards for school library media specialists to evaluate material against when determining its suitability.

Additionally, the Act mandates boards of education to adopt a Library Display and Program Policy. This policy recognizes the purpose and importance of library displays and acknowledges the professional training of school library media specialists who curate and develop such displays and programs. Accordingly, CAFE's policy department has developed a Library Display and Program policy ([P6161.14/1312.5](#)).

Notably, the Act requires boards of education to adopt a Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy. This policy lays out a procedure for handling complaints against instructional material used in the classroom or available in the school library/media center.

The Public Act specifically requires that after a reconsideration form is filed by a complainant, the principal of the school in which the material is challenged promptly forwards the request for reconsideration to the district's superintendent. The superintendent then appoints a review committee that includes:

1. The Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee;
2. Principal of the school in which the material is being challenged, or the principal's designee;
3. The director of curriculum;
4. A representative from the local board of education;
5. At least one grade-level appropriate teacher familiar with the material;
6. A parent or guardian of a student aged 13 years or younger enrolled in the school district;
7. A parent or guardian of a student aged 14 years or older enrolled in the school district;
8. A certified school librarian employed by a board of education.

This review committee is called to evaluate the reconsideration request by reading the challenged material in its entirety and evaluating it against the school district's Collection Development and Maintenance policy. The Act establishes that material can only be removed *for legitimate pedagogical purposes* or for *professionally accepted standards* as adopted in the Collection Development and Maintenance policy or the Library Display and Program policy. The review committee is prohibited from removing any material on the sole basis that an individual finds such material offensive, or because of the origin, background, or viewpoints expressed in the material or by the creator of the material.

The Act requires that within sixty school days, the review committee must provide the complainant and the principal of the school in which the material is being challenged with a copy of the review committee's written decision. An appeal can be made against the decision of the review committee to the local board of education, at which point the board of education is tasked to determine whether the reconsideration process was followed and to publish the appeal decision on the website of the school district.

CAFE's policy department has therefore created Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy ([P6161.12/1312.3](#)), detailing the library material review process. Our policy also has accompanying forms that can be used for reconsideration and appeal requests.

Previously, guidance for library material review and reconsideration was included in our Public Complaints Policy ([P1312](#)). Now, since we have created a new policy specific to Library Material Review and Reconsideration, our Public Complaints Policy has been updated to provide an overview of the general complaint procedure and no longer details the library material review process.

In summary, CAFE's policy department has developed three new mandated model policies (P6161.12/1312.3, P6161.13/1312.4, P6161.14/1312.5), accompanied by administrative regulations and sample forms, that boards of education can adopt or use as a model in developing their own policies.

The CT Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity (CWCSEO) Survey Request

(CWCSEO is a non-partisan legislative branch, a state agency committed to informing policymakers of the needs of residents throughout the state of Connecticut.)

The Commission is currently conducting a statewide review and analysis of district-level implementation of the Connecticut School Climate Policy, which took effect on July 1, 2025. As you're aware, the mandated policy outlines critical requirements to ensure that all students in Connecticut experience safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments.

They are reaching out to district-level leadership in each district throughout the state, requesting their participation in the following brief survey, designed to assess the status of your district's compliance with the updated statute and policy.

Your participation is vital in helping the CWCSEO understand the status of implementation across districts and to inform future statewide support strategies for assisting districts with their school climateimprovement process.

They ask that you or another district-level leader, such as an assistant superintendent, please complete the survey by August 30, 2025, using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/dq9j81XAU7TsQ17z9>

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the project further, feel free to contact Jewel Lucien at jewel.lucien@cga.ct.gov

Enjoy the remaining summer weeks.