

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

(Background Information for Policy Review Committee)

Public Act No. 25-168, *An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027, and Making Appropriations Therefore, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget*, establishes new standards regarding three key areas related to school libraries: (1) library collection development and maintenance; (2) library displays and programs, and (3) library material review and reconsideration.

The Act mandates that all school boards adopt a **Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy** that will serve as the standard against which library material complaints are evaluated. This policy directs superintendents to create administrative regulations that establish a procedure for certified school library media specialists to continually review library and other educational materials within a school library media center. The Act also requires that the standards set in the regulation must include, but are not limited to, 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 Library Collection Development and Maintenance policy (P6161.13/1312.4) in accordance with the Act, along with an accompanying regulation that outlines specific standards for school library media specialists to evaluate materials against when determining their 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, CABE's policy department has developed a Library Display and Program Policy (P6161.14/1312.5).

Furthermore, the Act requires boards of education to adopt a **Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy**. This policy outlines a procedure for handling complaints regarding instructional materials 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 age 13 years or younger enrolled in the school district;
7. A parent or guardian of a student age 14 years or older enrolled in the school district;
8. A certified school librarian employed by a board of education.

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(Background Information for Policy Review Committee) (continued)

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 Library 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 Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy or the Library Display and Program Policy. Furthermore, 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.

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

Previously, guidance on reviewing and reconsidering library materials was included in our Public Complaints Policy (P1312). Now that we have created a new policy specific to Library Material Review and Reconsideration (P6161.12/1312.3), our Public Complaints Policy has been updated to provide an overview of the general complaint procedure, and it no longer details the library material review process.

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

August 2025
Reviewed October 2025

A mandated policy.

Instruction/Community Relations

Library Display and Program Policy

Library displays and student programs are crucial in serving as resources for voluntary inquiry, the dissemination of information and ideas, and promoting free expression and access to ideas among students.

The Board of Education recognizes that library displays are provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all students, represent a wide range of varied and divergent viewpoints, and provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests, and educational needs of students.

The _____ Board of Education acknowledges that a school library media specialist is professionally trained to curate and develop displays and programs that shall provide students with access to the widest array of age-appropriate and grade-level-appropriate library and other educational materials.

Through this policy, the Board of Education ensures that all library materials shall be evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in section 10-15c of the general statutes, including, but not limited to, discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. The Board shall review and update this policy as necessary every five years.

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

Connecticut General Statutes
Section 10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited

Policy adopted:

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