South Carolina Instructional Materials
Uniform Parent Complaint Form

Your Name: _____

Title & Author of Contested Material *(one per form)*: _____

_____

School Where Contested Material is Located: _____

Location of Contested Material *(library, classroom, etc…)*: _____

Contested Material is *(select one)*: ☐ **Printed** ☐ **Audio/Visual** ☐ **Online Resource**

☐ **Other** *(please describe)*: _____

I request that this Contested Material be *(choose one of the following)*:

☐ Removed from all schools/facilities in this District.

☐ Restricted to the following grade levels in this District: _____.

☐ Restricted to a student whose parent/legal guardian provides consent and is enrolled in the following grade levels in this District: _____.

Describe Your Reason for Contesting This Material *(attach additional pages as needed)***:**

I, _____ *(insert your name)***, hereby certify that:**

- I am a parent or legal guardian of a student who attends a school within this District.
- I have read, watched, or otherwise reviewed the material I am contesting.
- I have made a good faith effort to address my concerns with School or District staff.
- I have not filed more than five (5) instructional material complaints (including this complaint) in this calendar month.
- I believe that this Contested Material is not suitable for use, availability, and/or unrestricted access in this District, pursuant to the requirements and definitions in Regulation 43-170, which are summarized on the following instruction page.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

This form is produced by the South Carolina Department of Education in compliance with Regulation 43-170 and may not be altered by any other party. It is effective beginning August 1, 2024 until further notice.

Form Instructions

Please review carefully before completing this form.

State Board of Education Regulation 43-170 requires that instructional materials in South Carolina public schools be **age and developmentally appropriate** and **aligned with and supportive of South Carolina's instructional program**.

Age and developmentally appropriate means topics, messages, materials, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.

Aligned with and supportive of South Carolina's instructional program means rigorous, standards-based instructional material focused on high academic achievement and resulting in graduates who have the world-class knowledge, skills, and life and career characteristics to be college and career ready.

This Regulation provides that materials are not "age and developmentally appropriate" for any age or age group of children if they include descriptions or visual depictions of "sexual conduct," as defined in SC Code §16-15-305(C)(1):

- *vaginal, anal, or oral intercourse, whether actual or simulated, normal or perverted, whether between human beings, animals, or a combination thereof;*
- *masturbation, excretory functions, or lewd exhibition, actual or simulated, of the genitals, pubic hair, anus, vulva, or female breast nipples including male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal or covered male genitals in a discernably turgid state;*
- *an act or condition that depicts actual or simulated bestiality, sado-masochistic abuse, meaning flagellation or torture by or upon a person who is nude or clad in undergarments or in a costume which reveals the pubic hair, anus, vulva, genitals, or female breast nipples, or the condition of being fettered, bound, or otherwise physically restrained on the part of the one so clothed;*
- *an act or condition that depicts actual or simulated touching, caressing, or fondling of, or other similar physical contact with, the covered or exposed genitals, pubic or anal regions, or female breast nipple, whether alone or between humans, animals, or a human and an animal, of the same or opposite sex, in an act of actual or apparent sexual stimulation or gratification; or*
- *an act or condition that depicts the insertion of any part of a person's body, other than the male sexual organ, or of any object into another person's anus or vagina, except when done as part of a recognized medical procedure.*

A District board may not predicate its decision regarding any contested material based upon disagreement with viewpoints expressed in the material. Rather, it must apply criteria regarding age appropriateness and alignment with the State's instructional program as outlined in the Regulation.

The Regulation allows a parent or legal guardian to file this complaint form with their District board if they believe a specific instructional material used in their District violates the requirements of the Regulation. **An individual filing a complaint must:**

1. Be a parent/guardian of a student who attends school in the school district;
2. Read, watch, or otherwise review the material; and
3. Make a good faith effort to address their concerns with school or district office staff prior to filing a complaint.

Only one specific instructional material may be challenged per form, and individual complainants are limited to no more than five (5) complaints per calendar month.

For printed materials, cite the page number, chapter, section, paragraph, or other information that identifies the contested material. To further assist the review of the complaint, please include a copy or screenshot of the contested material and submit it with this form.

For audio/visual recordings, cite the minute mark in the recording or other information that identifies the contested material.

For online materials, describe how the content is accessed (website address, application on school issued device, or other information that identifies the material). If possible, please submit screenshots or other printed documentation of the contested material with this form.

The Regulation requires District boards to hold a public meeting within 90 days to consider a complaint. The District board is required to either announce its decision regarding the complaint at the meeting or in writing within 15 days of the meeting. Additionally, the Regulation establishes a right for a complainant to appeal the decision of the District board to the State Board of Education within 30 days of the District board's announcement of its decision.

Please note that certification and signature sections of the form must be completed for the complaint to be considered.