

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51 (BOUNDARY)

P O L I C Y

SECTION	TITLE	NO. 3010
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS/ MATERIALS	<u>Challenge of Materials</u>	

DATE ADOPTED: April 13, 1999

DATE AMENDED: November 10, 2008

Learning resources used in the School District may be challenged. The procedure is for the purpose of those persons challenging the resources. Any person may raise objection to learning resources used in a school; however, no parent or group of parents has the right to determine reading, viewing or listening criteria for students other than his/her own child. The final decision for learning resources shall rest with the Board of Education.

R E G U L A T I O N S

In general, access to challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process. In cases of highly controversial material, however, the Superintendent of Schools may exercise discretionary power to suspend use until the reconsideration process is completed.

The major criterion for the final decision is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use.

Request for Informal Reconsideration

The school receiving a complaint regarding a learning resource shall try to resolve the issue informally.

1. The Principal, the teacher librarian and/or teaching professional shall explain to the questioner the school's selection procedure and criteria.
2. The Principal, the teacher librarian and/or teaching professional shall explain the particular place the questioned resource occupies in the educational program, and its intended educational usefulness.

Request for Formal Reconsideration

A. Preliminary Procedures

1. If the questioner wishes to file a formal challenge the appropriate form shall be completed and submitted. Each school shall keep on hand and make available Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources Forms. All formal objections to learning resources must be made on these forms.
2. The request for reconsideration shall be referred to the Superintendent of Schools.

B. The Reconsideration Committee

1. Upon receipt of a request for formal reconsideration of a learning resource, the Superintendent or designate is responsible for:
 - (a) The formation of the appropriate committee.
 - (b) Establishing a meeting date as soon as possible after the complaint is received.
 - (c) Ensuring that enough time should elapse so that all persons on the reconsideration committee have had time to read/review the material in question, the complaint, and the District Selection policy.
2. The Reconsideration Committee may choose to consult District support staff and/or community persons with related professional knowledge.
3. The Reconsideration Committee shall review the challenged material and judge whether it conforms to the criteria outlined in the District's Selection of Learning Resources Guidelines.

C. Resolution

1. The Reconsideration Committee shall proceed with these guidelines:
 - (a) Examine the challenged resources;
 - (b) Examine resources based on the material as a whole;
 - (c) Discuss the challenged materials in the context of the educational program with appropriate teaching professional;
 - (d) When appropriate, discuss the challenged item with the individual questioner;
 - (e) Prepare a written report.
2. The committee shall confer with the complainant and the teacher professional regarding the complaint following the decision of the committee.

3. The written report shall be submitted.
4. The recommendation of the Reconsideration Committee will be submitted to the Board of Education, whose decision will be binding.