

Policy

COMPLAINTS REGARDING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Riverton Board of Education recognizes that opinions may differ on the appropriateness of any given instructional materials and equipment. Occasionally an individual or group may find instructional materials used in the schools that conflict with their views. Any resident of this district shall have the right to present a request, suggestion or complaint in reference to the physical plant, playgrounds, subject matter or instructional materials.

The chief school administrator shall develop procedures to give careful consideration to such requests, suggestions or complaints. These procedures shall provide that:

- A. All such requests, suggestions or complaints shall be submitted in writing;
- B. Whenever possible the process be initiated and solved at the lowest effective level;
- C. District response is courteous and prompt;
- D. Successive steps of appeal and mechanisms for review are available when necessary.

The use of challenged materials or equipment by class or school shall not be restricted until a final decision has been reached.

The final decision on controversial reading matter shall rest with the board after careful examination and discussion of the book or reading matter with school officials or others the board may wish to involve.

Review or Examination of Instructional Materials

The following shall be made known to parents through school handbooks or notices provided early in the school year:

- A. Parents who wish, may, through an appointment arranged for by the superintendent, be permitted to examine the titles and, if they wish, the content of the district's supplementary books and materials, including software for any or all of the curriculum offerings provided for their children.
- B. Such arrangements shall be made so that they will provide the least disruption to the orderly processes for the functioning of the school. A person designated by the superintendent shall accompany the parent to show the material and to explain the plans and rationale for its use if any item is questioned.
- C. The parent may, in writing, request that his child not be provided with specific supplementary books or materials, which he shall identify by title. Such a list must be renewed yearly, since items for which a child might be considered too immature at one age might be appropriate at another. It is entirely possible, as well, that the parents' values may change.

In any event, the parent will bear full responsibility for the results of any restriction imposed.

Procedures for implementing this policy will be prepared by the administration and be made known and available to the teachers.

COMPLAINTS REGARDING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (continued)

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Key Words

Instructional Materials, Complaints Regarding Instructional Materials, Complaints, Censorship

Legal Reference: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)

Board of Education Island Trees U.F.S.D. v. Pico, 457 U.S. 853 (1982)

Possible

Cross References: *1312 Community complaints and inquiries
2220 Representative and deliberative groups
*6144 Controversial issues
*6161.1 Guidelines for evaluation and selection of instructional materials

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

FIRST READING: Board of Education Meeting: 9/22/09

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