

PARENTAL INSPECTION OF AND OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Policy Code:

3210

In board policy 3200, Selection of Instructional Materials, the board establishes a process for the selection of instructional materials. The board recognizes that despite the care taken in the selection process, occasional objections to some instructional materials may be voiced. Thus, to further involve parents in the education of their children, the board provides opportunities for parents to review instructional materials and to object to the use of materials.

A. PARENTAL RIGHT TO INSPECT MATERIALS

Parents have a right under federal law to inspect all instructional materials used in connection with any survey, analysis or evaluation as part of any applicable federally funded programs. Parents also may ordinarily review all other instructional materials following procedures provided by the school or superintendent. The term “instructional materials” does not include academic tests or assessments. Some materials available through the Internet and used in individual classes to provide up-to-date information or information on current events may not be available for review; however, all materials used in reproductive health and safety education shall be available for review as provided in policy 3540, Comprehensive Health Education Program.

B. PARENTAL OBJECTION TO MATERIALS

Parents may submit an objections in writing to the principal regarding the use of particular instructional materials. The building media advisory committee will review the objection. While input from the community may be sought, the board believes professional educators are in the best position to determine whether a particular instructional material is appropriate for the age and maturity of the students and for the subject matter being taught.

If the committee determines that any material violates constitutional or other legal rights of the parent or student, the principal will either remove the material from instructional use or accommodate the particular student and parent. Before any material is removed, the principal and the committee will ensure that the curriculum is still aligned with the current statewide instructional standards and articulated from grade to grade. If an objection made by a parent or student is not based upon constitutional or legal rights, the principal or the committee may accommodate such objections after considering the effect on curriculum, any burden on the school, teacher or other students that the accommodation would create, and any other relevant factors. Books and other instructional materials may be removed from the school media collection only for legitimate educational reasons and subject to the limitations of the First Amendment.

The decision of the committee may be appealed to the superintendent. The decision of the superintendent may be appealed to the board.

The superintendent will develop the necessary administrative procedures to implement this policy.

Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. I; 20 U.S.C. 1232h; N.C. Const. art. I, § 14; *Board of Educ. v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982); G.S. 115C-45, -47, -81, -98, -101

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Curriculum Development (policy 3100), Selection of Instructional Materials (policy 3200), Comprehensive Health Education Program (policy 3540)

Adopted: January 10, 2013, January 8, 2015