

PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS ABOUT INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

As the governing body of the school district, the School Board is legally responsible for the selection of instructional materials. The School Board has delegated to the professional personnel of the district the authority for making the selection of instructional and library resources. However, any resident or employee of the school district may inspect and raise objection to learning resources used in the school's educational program despite the fact that individuals selecting such resources were duly qualified to make the selection, followed the proper procedure and observed the criteria for selecting learning resources.

When an objection is raised, both school personnel and the complainant shall keep the following guiding principles in mind:

- No parent has the right to determine reading, viewing, or listening matter for students other than his/her own children.
- The School District supports the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS, adopted by the American Library Association. (A copy of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS is contained in the appendix.) When learning resources are challenged, the principles of freedom to read/listen or view must be defended as well.
- Access to challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process.
- The major criterion for the final decision will be the appropriateness of the material for its intended use.
- A decision to sustain a challenge shall not be interpreted as a lack of judgment on the part of the professional involved in the original selection and/or use of the material.

The school receiving a complaint regarding a learning resource shall try to resolve the issue informally. The Building Administrator shall explain to the questioner the school's selection procedure, criteria and qualifications of those persons selecting the resource. He/she shall explain the particular place the questioned resource occupies in the educational program, its usefulness and any other additional information regarding its use or he/she will refer the party to someone who can answer their concerns.

If the questioner wishes to file a formal challenge, the Building Administrator shall give the questioner a copy of the district's Selection of Learning Resources Policy IGDA and a request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources form (See Appendix under Miscellaneous Forms).

The Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources shall be completed and signed by the questioner and filed with the Building Administrator. A copy of this form is contained in the Appendix. The Building Administrator shall inform the Superintendent of the formal complaint and shall refer the request to the Curriculum Cabinet of SAU 50 for re-evaluation of the resource in question.

Upon receipt of a request for formal reconsideration of a learning resource, the Building Administrator shall arrange for a meeting of the Curriculum Cabinet within 10 school days after the complaint is filed.

The Curriculum Cabinet shall review the challenged resource and judge whether it conforms to the principles of the School District's Selection of Learning Resources Policy. In making its determination, the Curriculum Cabinet shall:

- (a) Examine the challenged resource.
- (b) Determine professional acceptance by reading critical reviews of the resource.
- (c) Weigh values and faults and form opinions on the material as a whole rather than on passages or sections taken out of context.
- (d) Discuss the challenged resources in the context of an educational program.
- (e) Discuss the challenged material with the individual questioner when appropriate.
- (f) Prepare a written report that may include a minority report.

The questioner shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Curriculum Cabinet to the School Board.

The decision reached by the School Board shall be binding.

Statutory/ Case Law/ Regulation References:

RSA 193-E:2

RSA 194-C:4

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS, American Library Association Council, 1980

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

20 U.S.C. § 1232 h

34 CFR Part 98

Adopted 2004