
AP 244 – Reconsideration of Learning Materials

Purpose

A parent and/or guardian of a student of the school district may formally challenge learning resource material used in the district educational system. Individuals shall be invited to complete a form requesting reconsideration of the use of material, and shall, if the matter is not resolved through regular administrative channels, have a personal interview with the Curriculum Advisory Body.

If the matter is not resolved by the Curriculum Advisory Body, the matter together with the report of the Curriculum Advisory Body will be referred to the Board whose decision will be final and binding.

Procedure

If a learning resource material is challenged, the following procedure should be carried out:

1. The school receiving a complaint regarding a learning resource shall try to resolve the issue informally.
2. Each school, under the direction of the principal, will develop a procedure for attempting to resolve such inquires within the school.
3. At the school level, every attempt will be made to explain the school selection procedure, Curriculum Advisory Body criteria, and any information regarding the use of resource material.
4. If the questioner wishes to file a formal challenge, the complainant will be invited to complete the form from the Administrative Procedures Manual - *Request for Reconsideration of Learning Material*.
5. The complete form will be returned to the school and distributed as follows:
 - 1 - to the principal of the school concerned.
 - 1 - to the teacher or teachers concerned.
 - 1 - to the Superintendent.
6. Upon receipt of a formal request for reconsideration of learning resource material, the principal will again attempt to resolve the complaint at the school level.
7. If it is still unresolved, the matter shall be referred to the Superintendent. Trustees will be notified of the request for reconsideration.

8. If necessary, arrangements will then be made for the complainant to have a personal interview with the Curriculum Advisory Body in accordance with Board policy.

Guidelines

A. Selection of Learning Resources

1. The Board recognizes three principles of learning:
 - learning requires the active participation of the learner;
 - people learn in a variety of ways and at different rates;
 - learning is both an individual and a social process.
2. The Board recognizes the importance of providing a broad range of learning resources to support the wide variety of needs of individual learners in its programs. Consequently, the Board expects that selected learning resources will provide for a range of teaching and learning styles as well as for the presentation of different points of view to meet the needs of students and teachers.
3. Learning resources used in district programs may be authorized, recommended or supplementary as defined in Ministerial Order M333/99 (3) (Educational Program Guide Order).
4. Learning resources will refer to any person(s) or any material (whether acquired or locally produced) with instructional content or function that is used for formal or informal teaching/learning purposes. Learning resources may include, but are not limited to, print and non-print materials; audio, visual, electronic, and digital hardware/software resources; and human resources.
5. All students should be reflected in learning resources by ensuring that selected resources are representative of gender, appearance, sexual orientation, ability/disability, belief system, family structure, race and ethnicity, and socio-economic status.

B. Guiding Principles

While it is recognized that any resident or employee of the school district may raise objection to learning resources used in a school's education program, the following principles must be respected:

- a. No parent has the right to determine reading, viewing, or listening matter for students other than his or her own children.
- b. Although it is the learning resource that is challenged, the principles of the freedom to read/listen/view must be defended as well.
- c. Access to challenged materials shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process.

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- d. The major criterion for the final decision is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use.
- e. A decision to sustain a challenge shall not necessarily be interpreted as a judgement of irresponsibility on the part of the professionals involved in the original selection and/or use of the material.
- f. Material should be judged in its entirety and not on a passage or passages taken out of context.

Adopted: January 17, 1979

Amended: September 29, 1993; October 11, 1995, April 19, 2016

References: Administrative Procedures Manual – *Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resource Material*