

**COMPLAINTS ABOUT CURRICULA OR  
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility for the selection of instructional materials. The Board expects district teachers and administrators to recommend books and other materials in accord with sound educational principles and practices, and to use them effectively in the classrooms. However, the Board also recognizes the right of community members to voice concerns and/or complaints regarding the implementation of a particular curriculum and/or instructional material.

Any criticism of instructional materials that are in the schools that cannot be resolved informally shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent. An Instructional Material Review Committee, consisting of an administrator, a Library Media Specialist, a teacher and a parent of a student enrolled in the district, will be designated by the Superintendent to investigate and judge the challenged material.

The committee shall make recommendations to the Superintendent concerning the disposition of the complaint, and the Superintendent will issue a decision. This decision may be appealed to the Board, and the decision of the Board shall be final.

Ref: Education Law §§1709(15); 1711(2)(f)  
*Board of Educ., Island Trees UFSD v. Pico*, 457 US 853 (1982)

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**COMPLAINTS ABOUT CURRICULA OR  
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS REGULATION**

The following procedures shall apply to the handling of complaints concerning any textbook, library book, any other instructional/media material used in district schools.

1. When a person has a complaint concerning a textbook, library book or other instructional material and protests its use in class or its availability in a school library, the Principal shall hold an informal meeting with the complainant and the teacher, Library Media Specialist, or other staff member who is using or providing the book or material. At this meeting, the complainant will be asked to make clear his or her objection to the material; the teacher or Library Media Specialist will be asked to explain the educational value of the material.
2. If the complaint is not resolved informally, the complainant may file a formal written complaint with the Superintendent of Schools on a form provided for this purpose.
3. Upon receiving a formal written complaint, the Superintendent shall designate an Instructional Review Committee, consisting of an administrator, a Library Media Specialist, a teacher and a parent of a student enrolled in the district, to investigate and judge the challenged material.
4. The committee shall:
  - a. read and examine the challenged materials;
  - b. consider the specific objections to the material voiced by the complainant;
  - c. weigh the values and faults of the material as a whole;
  - d. consider oral presentations made to the committee, if any;
  - e. where appropriate, solicit advice or opinion from other district faculty and/or relevant professional organizations such as the American Library Association, the National Council of Teachers of English, National Council of Social Studies Teachers; and
  - f. issue a report to the Superintendent containing its recommendations concerning any complaint.
5. The Superintendent shall review the report of the committee, make a decision and notify the complainant and appropriate staff.
6. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision he/she may refer the complaint to the Board. The Superintendent will deliver a copy of his/her decision and the committee's report to the Board for its consideration. The final decision shall be made by the Board.

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