

Revised Board Policy 605.3 Objection to Instructional Materials

Background:

The Iowa Legislature last spring, in response to political attacks on public schools, decided they needed to increase the ability of parents to object to instructional materials and library books in schools. To that end, they amended Iowa Code chapter 279.74.

Revisions in Iowa Code chapter 279.74 (created by HF 802) were intended to increase transparency with streamlined procedures for parents to view and challenge instructional and library materials.

For the most part, the policies the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) previously recommended—and the Belmond-Klemme Board had in place—were already compliant with the changes in the law. (Since nearly all schools were already in compliance with the law before the legislature passed it, it may be suggested the law was unnecessary.)

Two changes are recommended:

1. A major revision of the regulations as described in Policy No. 605.3-R(1) Objection to Instructional and Library Materials – Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Regulation; and
2. A new form so parents can file their objections added as Policy No. 605.3E4 Request to Prohibit a Student from Checking Out Specific Library Materials.

The two policies follow on the next few pages.

Recommended Action:

I recommend the board move to approve the first reading of the two policies below:

1. Policy No. 605.3-R(1) Objection to Instructional and Library Materials – Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Regulation; and
2. Policy No. 605.3E4 Request to Prohibit a Student from Checking Out Specific Library Materials.