



1897 Delaware Avenue
Mendota Heights, MN 55118
P 651.403.7003 F 651.403.7010
carijo.drewitz@isd197.org

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Cari Jo Drewitz, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

DATE: May 19, 2025

RE: Administrative Review of Policy 606.1, Reconsideration of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials

BACKGROUND:

A review of Policy 606.1, Reconsideration of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials, has been performed. This is a district specific policy. Based on our review of the current policy, no changes are recommended at this time.

This was a new policy in 2021. To summarize, Minnesota Statutes require school districts to have a procedure for a parent/guardian to review the instructional materials that are used in their children's classes and, if needed, to ask for reconsideration. In January of that year, a work group was formed to develop a policy and procedures for reconsideration. The work group reviewed policy and procedures from comparable and local districts. Input was gathered from staff, parents, and students. There was not a Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) model policy to follow; therefore legal counsel was sought before presenting it to the Board.

School District 197 reviews its policies on a 3-year cycle unless otherwise required by law. Typically, recommended policy changes are brought to the school board for three readings, with approval at the third reading. However, when the administration is recommending minor or no changes to the policy, it is labeled as an "administrative review." Consistent changes the board has asked to be applied to policies are considered minor. One example is using more inclusive language such as using "parent/guardian" instead of just "parent."

When labeled an "administrative review" the policy is placed on the consent agenda for a single reading with a recommendation to approve the policy as presented. As a reminder, board members always have the opportunity to remove a policy from the consent agenda to discuss it as part of the main agenda.

This policy was also reviewed using the district's 4-Way Equity Test. The policy provides a clear consistent process for staff and families and ensures that everyone has a voice. The procedure ensures that all parties are heard and supported. As requests are reviewed consideration is given to determine what system-wide communication may be necessary. We want to ensure that our staff continue to have confidence to engage students in learning about important and culturally complex themes while being responsive to an ever-changing social and political climate.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of School District 197 to approve Policy 606.1, Reconsideration of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials, as presented.