

Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters

5400 Curriculum, Instruction, and Parent Involvement

5407 Instructional Program and Curriculum Development

The District will provide students with at least the minimum number of instructional hours and days each school year required by the state for full state aid funding. The District may deviate from this requirement only as permitted by state law.

The Board, advised by the Superintendent, will adopt a curriculum and procure textbooks and materials to support the curriculum.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for providing and directing District-wide planning for curriculum, instruction, assessment, and staff development in accordance with Policy 2203. Committees consisting of educational professionals, including administrators, and community members, may be established to design instructional strategies and assessments to implement the curriculum.

A. Parent Rights

As described in Policy 5401, the District will provide a Parent the opportunity to review District-approved curriculum, textbooks, and instructional materials upon request to the building principal. See Policy 5401 for appropriate procedures.

B. Complaints about Instructional Materials

If a Parent objects to their student's instructional materials, the following procedures will apply:

1. **First Level – Objection to Teacher.** The Parent must submit an objection and explanation in writing to the relevant classroom teacher. The teacher will review the Parent's objection and either (1) exempt the student from using the material; (2) discontinue using the material for some or all students; or (3) advise the Parent of the educational and pedagogical reasons for the material.
2. **Second Level - Appeal to Building Principal.** If the Parent disagrees with the teacher's response, the Parent may submit a written appeal to the building principal stating the reasons why the Parent objects to the materials. The building principal will confer with the relevant classroom teacher within 5 school days. The building principal will review the written objection and the materials in question to determine whether:
 - a. the stated objection outweighs the educational and pedagogical reasons;
 - b. the materials require the student to engage in conduct or practice that violates the student's sincerely held religious belief;

- c. the materials lack serious educational, literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for the age range of the students in question; or
- d. the materials are inappropriate or harmful for the age range of the students in question.

The building principal will provide all parties with a written response granting or denying the appeal within 10 school days after conferring with the teacher.

Third Level - Superintendent Review. If the Parent disagrees with the building principal's response, the Parent may submit a written appeal to the Superintendent within 5 school days after receiving the building principal's response. The Superintendent will review the Parent's written objection, the building principal's written response, the Parent's written appeal, the materials being challenged, and any other information the Superintendent deems relevant. The Superintendent will issue a written decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the appeal based on the factors described in Section 2 above. The Superintendent's decision is final.

C. [Optional, but recommended] **Complaints about Library Materials**

If a Parent objects to materials in the school library, the Parent must submit an objection and explanation in writing to the Superintendent identifying:

- 1. the basis for the objection;
- 2. any recent known use of the library materials in the school; and
- 3. any other relevant information.

The Superintendent will review the written objection and the materials in question in their totality to determine whether:

- 1. the materials lack serious educational, literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for the age range of the students in question; or
- 2. the materials are inappropriate or harmful for the age range of the students in question.

The Superintendent may, in his or her sole discretion, designate review to another administrator or employee. The Superintendent or designee will endeavor to provide a written response to the Parent within 30 calendar days after receiving the objection. The Superintendent or designee's decision is final.

The District will not restrict access to the challenged material during the review process.

Legal Authority: MCL 380.1137, 388.1706

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