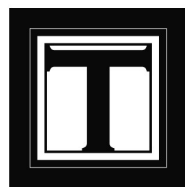


# Marked PDF of Changes

***Tracked Changes to the  
Board Policy Manual  
July 25, 2025***

***Note: use the Bookmarks tab to quickly  
access different policies in this PDF***



**THRUN**  
LAW FIRM, P.C.  
POLICY SERVICE

- 5306 Foreign Students
- 5307 Homeless Students
- 5308 Protection of Pupil Rights
- 5309 Student Records and Directory Information

#### **5400 Curriculum, Instruction, and Parent Involvement**

- 5401 Parent Involvement in Education
- 5402 Communication with Parents
- 5403 Rights of Non-Custodial Parents
- 5404 Free Textbooks, Materials, and Charging of Fees and Fines
- 5405 Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy or Intentionally Left Blank
- 5406 Title I Funds
- 5407 Instructional Program and Curriculum Development
- 5407-F Instructional Materials Opt-Out Form (Not Sex Education, Family Planning, and/or Reproductive Health)
- 5408 Intentionally Left Blank
- 5409 Academic Credits and Graduation
- 5410 Commencement
- 5411 Student Promotion, Retention, and Placement
- 5412 Class Rank or Intentionally Left Blank
- 5413 Senior Recognition or Intentionally Left Blank
- 5414 Completion Certificates or Intentionally Left Blank
- 5415 Summer School
- 5416 Homebound and Hospitalized Instruction
- 5417 Homework or Intentionally Left Blank
- 5418 Grades
- 5419 Reading Assessments, Instruction, Intervention, and Retention
- 5420 Sex Education
- 5421 Work-Based Learning Experience or Intentionally Left Blank

#### **5500 School Sponsored and Extracurricular Activities**

- 5501 Fundraising Activities
- 5502 Student Government or Intentionally Left Blank
- 5503 Bulletin Boards and Other Student Postings
- 5504 School-Sponsored Publications and Productions
- 5505 School Attendance on Days of Scheduled Activities or Intentionally Left Blank
- 5506 Field Trips
- 5507 Extracurricular Activities
- 5508 Extracurricular and Athletic Trips
- 5509 Public Appearances of School Groups or Intentionally Left Blank
- 5510 Student-Initiated, Non-Curricular Clubs
- 5511 Secret Organizations

#### **5600 Student Support Services**

- 5601 Special Education
- 5602 Independent Educational Evaluation
- 5603 Section 504

## Series 4000: District Employment

### 4200 Employee Conduct and Ethics

#### 4221 Employee Speech

As role models, employees must exercise sound judgment in their interactions with students, Parents, and members of the community and maintain a high degree of professionalism and objectivity. Employees must act within the scope of their respective duties and responsibilities.

##### A. Curriculum, Instruction, and Controversial Topics

During instruction and discussion of controversial issues, employees must follow these guidelines:

1. the issues discussed must be relevant to the curriculum and be part of a planned educational program;
2. students and Parents must have free access to appropriate materials and information for analysis and evaluation of the issues;
3. employees must allow discussion of a variety of viewpoints so long as that discussion does not substantially disrupt the educational environment;
4. the topic and materials used must be within the students' range, knowledge, maturity, and competence;
5. employees must obtain pre-approval from the building principal before instructing students about sensitive or controversial issues; ~~and~~
6. employees must not advocate partisan causes, sectarian religious views, or self-propaganda of any kind during school or school-related functions. Employees may express a personal opinion as long as students are encouraged to reach independent decisions.; and
7. if a Parent objects to their student's instructional materials, employees will refer the Parent to Policy 5407 and Form 5407-F.

Employees who are unsure of their obligations must confer with their building principal or supervisor.

##### B. Speech on Matters of Public Concern

The District respects and supports its employees' right as citizens to exercise free speech in a responsible manner.

Free speech rights are not absolute and are subject to restriction when the employee is acting within the course and scope of their employment.

When speaking as a citizen on a matter of public concern, an employee must not make written, verbal, online, or nonverbal statements that cause a substantial disruption to the school environment, violate federal or state law, or otherwise violate these Policies. An employee's right as a citizen to comment upon matters of public concern must be balanced against the District's interest in promoting the efficiency of the public services it performs through its employees.

Employees do not speak on behalf of the District or a school unless specifically authorized by the Board or Superintendent.

Legal authority: U.S. CONST. amend. I; Const 1963, art I, § 5

Date adopted:

Date revised:

## 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. [Optional, but recommended] 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~~Building Principal. The Parent must submit an objection and explanation in writing to the ~~relevant classroom teacher~~building principal using Form 5407-F. The ~~teacher~~building principal 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.~~objected materials to determine whether:
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 the material was selected;

- b. the materials require the student to engage in conduct or practice that violates the or substantially interferes with the student's sincerely held religious belief or religious development;
- 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 confer with the teacher as part of their review of the Parent's objection.

The building principal will provide all parties with a written response granting or denying the appeal Parent's objection within 10 school days after conferring. If the Parent's objection is granted, the student will be excused from this instructional material with the teacher no negative consequence.

3.2. [Optional. If selected, choose Choose Option 1 Superintendent Review or Option 2 Committee Review]

[Option 1: ~~Third~~ Second 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 21 above. The Superintendent's decision is final. If the Parent's appeal is granted, the student will be excused from this instructional material with no negative consequence.

[Option 2: ~~Third~~ Second Level – Committee 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 create a committee to review the appeal. The committee 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 committee deems relevant. The committee will issue a written decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the appeal based on the factors described in Section 21 above. The committee's decision is final. If the Parent's appeal is granted, the student will be excused from this instructional material with no negative consequence.

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

1. 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.~~a. the basis for the objection;
  - ~~2.~~b. any recent known use of the library materials in the school; and
  - ~~3.~~c. any other relevant information.
2. The Superintendent will review the written objection and the materials in question in their totality to determine whether:
  - ~~1.~~a. the materials lack serious educational, literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for the age range of the students in question; or
  - ~~2.~~b. 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; MCL 388.1706; *Mahmoud v Taylor*, 606 US (2025)

Date adopted:

Date revised:

**Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters**

**5400 Curriculum, Instruction, and Parent Involvement**

**5407-F Instructional Materials Opt-Out Form (Not Sex Education, Family Planning, and/or Reproductive Health)**

[District Name] uses a variety of instructional materials to achieve academic objectives, follow state content and curriculum standards, and ensure students are exposed to a wide range of ideas and viewpoints. While the District strives to select materials that are inclusive for all students and acceptable to all families, there may be times when a Parent or student objects to certain materials. In these circumstances, a Parent may request their student's excusal from the instructional material. Opt-out requests will be reviewed using the procedure in Policy 5407.

**If you are seeking to opt your student out of sex education, family planning, and/or reproductive health instruction, do not use this form. Please follow the procedures described in Policy 5420.**

I request that my child, \_\_\_\_\_, be excused from the following class instruction: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list the specific curricular material, lesson, or book from which you are seeking excusal. Failure to provide specific information will result in this request being denied.**

Reason for opt-out:

- ☐ The materials require the student to engage in conduct or practice that violates or substantially interferes with the student's sincerely held religious belief and/or religious development. Specific religious objection: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ The materials lack serious educational, literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for the age range of the students in question.
- ☐ The materials are inappropriate or harmful for the age range of the students in question.
- ☐ Other. Specific objection: \_\_\_\_\_

This form must be used for all opt-out requests, excluding sex education, family planning, and/or reproductive health instruction. Failure to use this form or to fully complete this form will result in the request being denied.

Parent's Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal Response:**

- ☐ Granted
- ☐ Denied (provide denial rationale): \_\_\_\_\_