



Objections to Material Used in Classrooms, Made Available in a School or Classroom Library, or Included On a Reading List

Parents and residents of the county may object to the use of a specific instructional material in the classroom, made available in a school or classroom library, or included on a reading list, based on the criteria set forth in F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2. or F.S. 1014.05(1)(c).

The District's process and objection form, which are easy to read and understand, are accessible on the homepage of the District's website.

All challenges under this policy shall be addressed as follows:

- A. Unless and until a standard objection form is adopted by the State Board of Education, the District's objection form, which shall identify the District's point of contact and contact information for the submission of an objection, must be provided to the Principal and shall include:
1. author;
 2. title;
 3. publisher;
 4. the complainant's familiarity with the material challenged;
 5. sections challenged, by page and item;
 6. whether the challenged material contains content that: is pornographic or prohibited under F.S. 847.012; depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined in F.S. 847.001(19)(unless such material is for a course required by F.S. 1003.46, F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)1.g., F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)3., or identified by State Board of Education rule); is not suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented; or, is inappropriate for the grade level and age group for which the material is used.

Any material that is subject to an objection on the basis that it is pornographic or prohibited under F.S. 847.012 or depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined in F.S. 847.001(19)(unless such material is for a course required by F.S. 1003.46, F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)1.g., F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)3., or identified by State Board of Education rule) must be removed within five (5) school days of receipt of the objection and remain unavailable to students of that school until the objection is resolved.

Parents shall have the right to read passages from any material that is subject to an objection. If the Board denies a parent the right to read passages due to content that is subject to an objection on the basis that it is pornographic or prohibited under F.S. 847.012 or depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined in F.S. 847.001(19)(unless such material is for a course required by F.S. 1003.46, F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)1.g., F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)3., or identified by State Board of Education rule), the District shall discontinue the use of the material.

- B. Upon receipt of the information, the Principal may after advising the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning of the complaint, and upon the Assistant Superintendent's approval, appoint a review committee which must consist of one (1) or more instructional staff members including Media Specialist, District Official, Curriculum Member, Principal, Teacher; Community Member; one (1) or more parents of students who will have access to the materials; one (1) or more lay persons knowledgeable in the area. Meetings of review committees must be noticed and open to the public in accordance with F.S. 286.011.

- C. The committee, in evaluating the questioned material, shall be guided by the following criteria: the appropriateness of the material for the age and maturity level of the students with whom it is being used, the accuracy of the material, the objectivity of the material, the use being made of the material.
- D. The material in question, except material that must be removed within five (5) school days pursuant to Florida law, may be withdrawn from use pending the committee's recommendation to the Superintendent.
- E. The committee's recommendation shall be reported to the Superintendent in writing within fifteen (15) business days following the formation of the committee. The Superintendent will advise the complainant, in writing, of the committee's recommendation and advise the Board of the action taken or recommended.
- F. The Board will review the case, including all evidence proffered by the complainant, during a publicly noticed Board meeting. The Board shall announce during the meeting whether the challenged material meets the requirements of this Policy. The complainant shall submit any additional evidence for the Board's consideration no later than fourteen (14) days before the meeting at which the Board will consider the challenge.

No challenged material may be removed from the curriculum or from a collection of resource materials except by action of the Board or as otherwise required in this policy and Florida law, and no challenged material may be removed solely because it presents ideas that may be unpopular or offensive to some. Any Board action to remove material will be accompanied by the Board's statement of its reasons for the removal.

If the Board finds that any material meets the requirements under F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2.a or that any other material contains prohibited content under F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2.b.(I), the District shall discontinue use of the material.

If the Board finds that any other material contains prohibited content under F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2.b.(II)-(IV), the District shall discontinue use of the material for any grade level or age group for which such use is inappropriate or unsuitable.

If a parent disagrees with the determination made by the Board on the objection to the use of a specific material, a parent may request the Commissioner of Education to appoint a special magistrate who is a member of The Florida Bar in good standing and who has at least five (5) years' experience in administrative law. The special magistrate shall determine facts relating to the District's determination, consider information provided by the parent and the District, and render a recommended decision for resolution to the State Board of Education within thirty (30) days after receipt of the request by the parent.

The State Board of Education must approve or reject the recommended decision at its next regularly scheduled meeting that is more than seven (7) calendar days and no more than thirty (30) days after the date the recommended decision is transmitted. The costs of the special magistrate shall be borne by the District.

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