

Decatur County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: <h3 style="text-align: center;">Reconsideration of Instructional Materials and Textbooks</h3>	Descriptor Code: 4.403	Issued Date: 07/13/17
		Rescinds: 4.403	Issued: 11/13/97

- 1 The board supports principles of intellectual freedom inherent in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the
- 2 United States¹ and expressed in the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association.

- 3 Because opinions differ, there may be questions concerning some instructional and library materials despite the
- 4 quality of the selection process. If a complaint is made, the following procedure is to be followed:

- 5 1. Inform the complainant of the selection procedures and make no commitments.
- 6
- 7 2. Request the complainant to submit a formal Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials.
- 8
- 9 3. Inform the principal (and other appropriate personnel).
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- 11 4. Keep challenged materials available for use during the reconsideration process.
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- 13 5. Upon receipt of the completed form, the principal requests review of the challenged materials by an ad
- 14 hoc materials review committee within fifteen (15) working days, and notifies the appropriate
- 15 supervisor and the director of schools that such review is being done. The review committee is
- 16 appointed by the principal, and includes certified library media personnel, representatives from
- 17 classroom teachers, one or more parents, and may include one or more students.
- 18
- 19 6. The review committee shall take the following steps after receiving the challenged materials:
- 20 a. Read, view, or listen to the material in its entirety;
- 21 b. Check general acceptance of the material by reading recognized and evaluative reviews;
- 22 c. Determine the extent to which the material supports the curriculum;
- 23 d. Complete the appropriate Checklist for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials, judging the
- 24 material for its strength and value; and
- 25 e. Present recommendation to principal for further action and to the director of schools for
- 26 purposes of information.
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- 28 7. If the complainant desires further action after receiving the recommendation of the committee and the
- 29 decision of the principal, an appeal may be made to the board.

Legal References

1. *Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853, 102 S. Ct. 2799 (1982)