

# **PARENTAL INSPECTION OF AND OBJECTION TO EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

*Policy Code:* **3210**

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In policy 3200, Selection of Instructional Materials, the Board establishes a process for the selection of instructional materials to meet State Board of Education requirements and the educational goals of the Board. That process provides an opportunity for parental input in the selection of materials.

The Board recognizes, however, that a parent may have concerns about educational materials used in the school system. Thus, to further involve parents in the education of their children, the Board also provides opportunities for parents to review instructional/supplementary materials and a process for parents to follow when they object to materials. While a student or student's parent may be accommodated pursuant to this Policy, educational materials shall only be removed for legitimate reasons and in accordance with the First Amendment. The school district may remove or restrict materials based on its role of educating students, however, such decisions cannot be made on the basis of viewpoint.

## **A. PARENTAL RIGHT TO INSPECT MATERIALS**

Parents have a right under federal law to inspect all instructional materials which will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any applicable federally funded programs. Parents may review all other educational materials following procedures provided by the school or Superintendent. The term "educational materials" does not include academic tests or assessments. Some materials available through the Internet and used in individual classes to provide up-to-date information or information on current events may not be available for advance review; however, all materials used in reproductive health and safety education shall be available for review as provided in policy 3540, Comprehensive Health Education Program.

## **B. PARENTAL OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL**

Instructional materials are defined in Board Policy 3200. Parents may submit an objection in writing to the principal regarding the use of particular instructional materials. The principal may establish a committee to review the objection. While input from the community may be sought, the board believes professional educators are in the best position to determine whether a particular instructional material is appropriate for the age and maturity of the students and for the subject matter being taught.

If the principal or the committee determines that any material violates constitutional or other legal rights of the parent or student, the principal or the committee shall either remove the material from instructional use or accommodate the particular student and parent. Before any material is removed, the principal or the committee shall ensure that the curriculum is still aligned with current statewide instructional standards and articulated

from grade to grade. If an objection made by a parent or student is not based upon constitutional or legal rights, the principal or the committee may accommodate the objection after considering the effect on the curriculum; any burden on the school, teacher, or other students that the accommodation would create; and any other relevant factors.

The decision of the committee or principal may be appealed to the Superintendent. The decision of the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board.

**C. PARENTAL OBJECTION TO SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS**

Supplementary materials are defined in Board Policy 3200. Parents may request that their child not have access to certain supplementary materials and the District will honor this request.

A Request for **Reconsideration of Library Materials Form for Parents** may be submitted to the principal regarding the availability of supplementary materials at their child/children's school. No review or other action will be taken prior to receipt of a completed and signed Request for Reconsideration of Library Books Form for Parents and final decision per this policy. The Principal will notify the **School** Media Coordinator and District Media Lead of the complaint. The Principal will convene the school **Media and Technology Advisory Committee (MTAC)**. While input from the community is appreciated, professional educators are in the best position to determine whether a particular supplementary material is appropriate for the age and maturity of the students. The decision of the **Media and Technology Advisory Committee (MTAC)** will apply only to the school in which the challenge originated. Multiple complaints regarding the same source will result in the formation of a district committee to review and make recommendations for all schools involved. All reviews will stand for 5 years.

The **Media and Technology Advisory Committee (MTAC)** will review the material and present a written report to the Superintendent and District Media Lead. The committee shall:

- Review the challenged material in accordance with review procedures implemented by the district including Procedure 3200-R.
- Survey appraisals of the materials in three or more reputable and professional reviewing sources.
- Weigh merits against alleged faults to form opinions based on the material as a whole and not on passages isolated from context, based on stated selection criteria.
- Meet to discuss the material and prepare a report within a reasonable amount of time after receipt of the formal written complaint.

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The **School** Media Coordinator will complete a written report of the MTAC decisions. The report will be shared with the Principal and District Media Lead for review. Following the review, a letter will be delivered to the complainant with a copy of the MTAC report. All materials will be filed for future reference. If the complainant chooses to disagree with the MTAC decision, he/she must appeal to the Superintendent in writing. The Superintendent or his/her designee will decide if further action is needed. The decision of the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board.

The Superintendent may develop additional procedures to implement this policy, as necessary.

Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. I; 20 U.S.C. 1232h; N.C. Const. art. I, § 14; *Board of Educ. v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982); G.S. 115C art. 8 pt. 1; 115C-45, -47, -98, -101

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Curriculum Development (policy 3100), Selection of Instructional Materials (policy 3200), Comprehensive Health Education Program (policy 3540)

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Revised: August 14, 2000, August 8, 2011; *March 12, 2018, September \_\_\_\_\_, 2022*

*Note: NCSBA policy adopted with significant adjustments.*